

## Gold to be used as backing for international borrowing

A plan for gold to be used by nations as backing for international borrowing has been approved in Washington by finance ministers of the main industrialized countries.

In accepting this, the United States Government has also agreed to a French demand to allow countries to revalue their gold reserves from the official price to one in line with market quotations, so boosting the value of reserves and a country's credit worthiness.

This is likely to help to solve Italy's financial crisis.

## World plan will help Italy boost reserves

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, June 12

Finance ministers of the main industrialized countries have agreed that gold can now be used by countries as collateral for international borrowing.

The United States Treasury said today that finance ministers are making progress towards the "two objectives of agreeing on procedural steps to phase gold out of a central role in the monetary system and at the same time permit it to be mobilized when needed by countries in balance of payments difficulties."

The gold agreements, made urgent by the economic crisis in Italy, were reached last night at an informal dinner of the Group of Ten finance ministers, headed by Signor Guido Carli, the Italian Central Bank governor, who is the only Italian Government representative attending the Committee of Twenty meetings here on monetary reform.

A senior European government official, who attended the dinner, told *The Times* today that there will be no formal announcement of the agreement reached at the Group of Ten meeting. He said, however, that it has been agreed that countries can use gold as collateral on international borrowing, with gold priced in such deals at a market-related price.

He added that the United States Government has accepted this and that it has also accepted a French demand, made last night at the dinner, which would allow countries, should they wish, to revalue their gold reserves from the official price to one in line with free market quotations.

The official added: "No country, not even Italy, has the intention of selling gold now. The agreements are aimed solely at holding the value of reserves that countries can use as collateral. This means the creditworthiness of countries in international markets will be strengthened."

Italy's gold reserves, as last published for the end of March, are worth \$2,911m (about £538m) at yesterday's closing price for gold in the London commodity market. At the official price they were worth \$3,433m.

The official said there was no mention at the meeting last night of a special international loan for Italy. "Italy can now use her gold in security for a loan, and loans can be worked out on a bilateral basis," he said.

Signor Carli is holding several private meetings with individual finance ministers here today and tomorrow. However, a West German Government official stated that "there would be no difficulty in arranging a loan for Italy on short notice, but there is a point in discussion, this until Italy has a government and a set of domestic anti-inflation policies."

The United States Treasury noted that this gold agreement does not mean that countries will be able to get free market rates for their gold holdings.

### Aylesford and Co: Apology

On March 12 we published on the front page an article by John Plender heading "Many estate agents running own property-dealing empires".

This article criticized the practice whereby some estate agents have been combining property dealing on a large scale with their orthodox activities. One of the firms of estate agents which the article implied was engaged in this practice was Aylesford and Co through its connection with Mr Oliver Burge.

We now accept that during the period when Mr Burge held a controlling interest in Aylesford and Co the estate agency side was run by Mr Andrew Langdon and was quite separate from the property dealing side run by Mr Burge. Furthermore, since November 1973, Aylesford and Co has been wholly owned by Mr Langdon and Mr Langdon is not an agent of Aylesford and Co and has no connection whatsoever with any property-dealing companies.

We unreservedly withdraw the allegations against Aylesford and Co and we are glad to apologize to them for the embarrassment they have been caused.

## Price curb on main foodstuffs defended

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced in the Commons yesterday that she has reached agreement with retailers on a voluntary control of prices of essential foodstuffs and other basic household items.

She said the agreement with a turnover of £250,000, who were required to make a 10 per cent reduction in their gross margins, would concentrate it on a list of agreed basic items. Those affected will be mainly the large supermarket chains.

The Retail Consortium had agreed to recommend her proposals to its members, and other voluntary groups had told her that they would cooperate. Small traders would be asked to make reductions, although they would be unable to include all the items on the agreed list.

Mrs Williams said she had also agreed with food manufacturers, who in many cases determined the extent of the promotional activity, to concentrate their promotional cuts on certain basic items.

Although Mrs Williams made no pretence that her scheme would do more than help the most hard-pressed families, or that it would reduce the retail price index, the announcement brought a tirade from Mr Paul Channon, the Opposition frontbencher.

Mrs Williams, he thundered, was engaged upon a cynical political charade designed to fool the British people in the short term without regard to the long-term consequences. It was pure hypocrisy to pretend that the Government had been concerned to reduce the rate of inflation. Some prices would be kept steady while the prices of other basic foods would have to rise to compensate for the reductions. What she had proposed, Mr Channon said, was verging on the ridiculous.

Mrs Williams replied that the purpose of the agreement was to hold down the price of the most essential foodstuffs. She claimed no more than that. Her aim was to help in particular pensioners and other low-income families who were worst affected by inflation. She reminded the House that the rate of increase in the food index was slowing, and that was not unrelated to action taken by the Government.

The basic items on the retailers' list are bread, butter, baby milk, fruit, apples, bananas and oranges, potatoes, or one basic vegetable, and one of the following: rice, pulses, lentils, electric hobs, matches, toilet soap, toothpaste and denture.

The manufacturers have agreed to concentrate promotion cuts on: sausages, cooking oil, cooking fat, and one of the following: tea, breakfast cereals, fish fingers, frozen vegetables, instant coffee, baby and infant foods in packets, and one of the following: crisps, baked beans, and canned soups.

Plan welcomed: Spar Vibo, one of the largest voluntary grocery organizations, last night welcomed Mrs Williams' statement. (Patrick Tisdall writes) Its endorsement of the voluntary package, together with that of the Retail Consortium, means that it is likely to be accepted at least in principle by well over 90 per cent of food traders.

Parliamentary report, page 10

## Israel MPs told of torturing of prisoners by Syrians

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, June 12

Two Israeli prisoners of war in Syria died after torture, five were maimed and many others suffered injuries, Mr Shimon Peres, the Israel Defence Minister, alleged in the Knesset today.

He disclosed that debriefing of the 68 prisoners who returned last week under the disengagement agreement elicited that electric shocks, tearing out of fingernails and toenails, whipping and blows on open wounds were used during interrogation of the prisoners.

Mr Peres was speaking in a Knesset debate on the treatment of the prisoners, more than 20 of whom listened intently from the visitors' gallery. He alleged that Syria had grossly violated the Geneva Convention, to which it was a signatory. Syria had

acted in a way that was beneath any human standards in peace or war, Mr Peres said. The Minister cited cases in which Syrian soldiers were reported to have fired at point-blank range at pilots falling out of their planes and at soldiers who had thrown down their arms.

He recalled that for four months the Damascus Government refused to state how many prisoners it held or give their names. Letters to prisoners from their families were not handed over until the beginning of last month, seven months after they were taken captive.

Quoting "objective" testimony received in Israel, Mr Peres said the men were held under severely overcrowded conditions—as many as 30 in a small, narrow cell with only 21 mattresses, without adequate

ventilation and with only minimal sanitary facilities. The food was poor, even for the wounded, and medical treatment was bad and irregular, he said.

During interrogation electric shocks were applied to sensitive parts of the body. Nails were torn out. In one case a hole was drilled in a nail, which was then torn out with an iron book. Men were beaten and whipped on various parts of the body.

A preliminary report by the Israel Army's chief medical officer said that the vast majority of prisoners were exposed to severe physical and mental torture. The methods were beating and electric shocks, wounds deliberately inflicted on the ears, burns on the legs and "suspension in painful positions".

As a result, most of the returning prisoners suffered injuries, including marks of beatings on the soles of the feet and to the head, ears and teeth.

The report added that treatment at Syrian hospitals was minimal and few were admitted to hospital.

All of them had violated the law by their "inhuman behaviour," Mr Peres said.

"This cruelty was inflicted by all ranks from soldiers and jailers who fired at unarmed prisoners, through the ranks responsible for the terrible tortures, up to the leaders of the regime, who refused to accept the responsibility of details to the families."

There was no proof that representatives of any foreign power took any active part in interrogations, he added. This was presumably a reference to the recent report in *The Sunday*

*Times* that Russian experts had been involved in injections of succinyl choline, a drug causing agonising spasms and breathlessness, to Israeli prisoners to make them talk.

Mr Peres pointed out that Israel notified the International Red Cross last October that soldiers had been murdered after being taken prisoner in the Golan Heights and Mount Hermon. He called on the civilized world to see that those responsible for atrocities were brought to trial, and to prevent a recurrence.

The Minister dismissed charges of torture made by Syrian returning prisoners as trumped-up attempts to weaken Israel's case.

The House passed a six-point resolution protesting "in indignation and wrath" at the murder and torture of Israeli prisoners.



Crowds chant "God bless Nixon" as the American leader drives with President Sadat to Cairo.

## Mr Nixon given hero's welcome

From Paul Martin  
Cairo, June 12

President Nixon declared on his arrival to a hero's welcome in Cairo today that his meeting with President Sadat might turn out to be "one of the great turning points" in history.

More than a quarter of a million Egyptians lined the route of the President's car procession, cheering and shouting praise as it made its way from the airport to the Presidential palace.

The first start to Mr Nixon's Middle East tour was a far cry from the mounting problems he is facing at home. As he made his way through the city he was greeted by placards declaring "God bless you Nixon." "Keep

it up Nixon," and "We have confidence in you." At several points wildly enthusiastic crowds broke through police cordons in an effort to shake his hand.

Addressing a crowd with President Sadat at the Kubbah Palace later, President Nixon emphasized the importance of the new relationship between Egypt and the United States. He declared that the United States was determined to develop these relations along two fronts.

The first was the economic link with the United States playing a major role in the development of Egypt. The second was in the search for "permanent, just and equitable peace" between the other.

President Nixon said that without President Sadat's wisdom, patience and courage it would not have been possible to achieve the breakthrough to peace in the Middle East. "The world owes him a great debt for this," he said. "He was confident that his visit would 'cement the foundations of a new relationship of the two great peoples'."

Looking relaxed and in good spirits, President Nixon stood beside President Sadat in an open Cadillac for the six-mile drive from the airport. With a broad smile he waved and exchanged greetings with the lines of well-wishers. From time to time he singled out someone in the crowd, evoking even more

enthusiasm. The one was inseparable from the other.

Continued on page 8, col 1

## Noisy protests at Bolshoi first night

By Martin Huckerby

Hundreds of demonstrators stood outside the London Coliseum last night to protest over the first night of the Bolshoi Ballet's visit to Britain. Holding placards saying "USSR: support the Bolsheviks and persecutors of Jews", they lined St Martin's Lane outside the theatre, shouting "Bolshoi out".

At the foot of St Martin's Lane, there was a counter-demonstration by the Palestine Action Campaign, offering "A warm welcome, Bolshoi!"

The anti-Bolshevik demonstration, organized by the Soviet Jewry Action Committee of the House of Commons, included at least five MPs, as well as two girls in black leotards distributing leaflets.

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## White House surrender on plumbers' case subpoena

From Fred Emery  
Washington, June 12

President Nixon today gave in to Judge Gesell in the so-called plumbers case. After his earlier defiance of court subpoenas for Mr John Ehrlichman's White House files, Mr Nixon, through counsel, now agreed to waive his claim of executive privilege.

The judge did not issue a final ruling this evening, with two apparently minor objections outstanding. But court sources predicted he would now restore Mr Ehrlichman to the main case from which his case had been severed; and order the trial, due to start next Monday, to be postponed at least a week.

Mr Nixon had been warned by the judge Gesell that he was "bordering on obstruction of justice" and acting in a manner "totally offensive" to justice by refusing to allow Mr Ehrlichman to be accompanied by counsel in reviewing his files at the White House.

The judge was particularly indignant over Mr Nixon's claim: to be the final judge of the relevancy of the documents to the case; now he has agreed to submit those selected by Mr Ehrlichman to the judge's final in camera inspection.

The action today was similar to Mr Nixon's earlier capitulation to the Federal courts, and further weakened his assertion of "executive privilege" which is supposed to protect the confidentiality of Presidential communications.

It will also have some effect on his appeal, before the Supreme Court, against Judge Gesell's order for him to turn over 64 more tapes. These have been subpoenaed by Mr Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, as being required for a fair trial in the main Watergate cover-up case.

In separate proceedings Judge Sirica today told counsel for Mr Baldwin and Mr Ehrlichman to bring having "a nice heart to heart talk" with the President, rather than keep up the subpoena pressure for White House documents Mr Nixon refuses to hand over.

Instead of going through all the courts, the redoubtable and unconventional judge suggested, "Let's do it the easy way."

## The rest of the news

Ulster: Big arms finds in troops' first raids on Orange halls

Dismissed priest: Father Canollan's appeal to Rome for justice and fair trial

Police: Sir Robert Mark reports on severe manpower shortage in London

British Rail: Government plans of at least £900m in financing

Miners: Left-wing leaders to issue charter for the coalfields

Family doctors: New-type contract ready to achieve aims for more pay

Paris: Communist leader takes a leaf from de Gaulle book in call for cooperation

Italy: Socialists and Republicans state their conditions for new centre-left coalition

Washington: Kissinger threat to resign spurs challenge by newspapers

Mogadishu: Dr Waldheim's optimistic message at opening of OAU conference

Football: Manchester United must fence in spectators at Old Trafford

Books: Jan Morris reviews a new biography of Wilberforce

Rome: The Italian lesson for Europe by Peter Nichols

Russia: Uneasy quiet on the frontier with China

Payments: Deficit for first quarter biggest ever, but drop on reserves small

Nigeria: 12-page special report in the Series Export Corridors of the World

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### Arab held over World Cup plot

Saarbrücken, June 12—

Police today arrested a Palestinian student on suspicion of having planned attacks during the World Cup prospects, page 11

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### Jubilant Panovs collect visas

Moscow, June 12—Valery and Galina Panov, the ballet dancers, were dancing for joy on the payments outside Leningrad's visa office today after being handed exit visas to leave for Israel.

Mr Panov said he had completely recovered from an hour of fatigue. Both hoped to fly to Vienna on Friday.—Reuter.

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## Labour split on Benn plan for industry as CBI starts fight

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Staff

Strenuous efforts are now being made by the Government to halt the damaging effect of its public ownership proposals. Some Cabinet ministers are of the opinion that the Government is heading for a situation that could be electorally disastrous.

Mr Heath, Leader of the Opposition, was quick to exploit the situation last night, uncharacteristically dubbing the proposals with a potentially durable brand name—"Gosplan, the name given to Stalin's disastrous economic plans."

In spite of its efforts the Government cannot hide the fact that there are serious divisions among ministers over the work of Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, and his colleagues at the Department of Industry. It was the leak of a document prepared by Mr Benn, "later made public" that started the trouble.

Mr Wilson, in order to control the industrial policy committee, took over the chairmanship some weeks ago of the ministerial public enterprise committee, which will oversee the work, but has brought in Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, as a member.

The department's working party that has been preparing the "Green Paper" on the National Enterprise Board and a planning agreement system, which will be the framework for the industrial policy committee, has completed its work. The policy committee, in the Labour Party manifesto, will be set up to oversee the work of the National Enterprise Board.

The document will go before the enterprise committee soon. The general expectation was that it would be published before the summer recess, but some ministers now have doubts whether it will see the light of day this side of the general election.

The committee was set up when Labour formed a minority government, and Mr Wilson decided to take charge of its first meeting in April. The previous chairman was Mr Short, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House.

The developing divisions in government are not just seen as a struggle between 10 Downing Street and the Department for Industry. Ministers in other departments are adopting essentially left-wing and right-wing stances on the issue.

Mr Benn reiterated the work of his department at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday and showed no signs of backing down. Indeed, in one passage in his speech he appeared to be taking on the threatened challenge of the Conservative Party, which said yesterday that it was to campaign vigorously against Mr Benn's proposals.

Mr Benn said: "We ought to resist completely any attempt to use investment as a tool to pressure government." Mr Benn told backbenchers he had become more convinced since taking office that the plans being taken were more relevant than before. When questioned he said he needed to strengthen his department to get people of the highest calibre, and he had got ideas on how to go about it.

Mr Heath, who obviously believes that the Government has shown its Achilles heel, went on to the attack last night. He told the executive of the National Union of the Conservative Party at a dinner in London: "It's the same story which we had when Commissioner Hafer told the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary what to do about trade with China. Now it's Commissioner Benn telling us that we must have a new industrial policy."

Mr Wilson's objective, he said, was to "cover up the embarrassing truth about the Labour Party's intentions which Mr Benn has revealed." Mr Heath added: "The more of industrialisation, the more of nationalisation. So the word has now gone out from No 10—play it down."

But we will not let them get away with it. Industry will not let them get away with it. The people of Britain will not stand for it. We must show the country what Labour are really up to."

Last night a group of shadow front bench spokesmen, including Mr Michael Heseltine, spokesman on trade and Mr Peter Channon, spokesman on prices, tabled a Commons early day motion stating: "That this House requests the Secretary of State for Industry to cease his destructive attacks on industry."

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74/15



## HOME NEWS

## Big arms discoveries in Army's first raids on Orange halls

From Stewart Tendler  
Belfast

Security forces discovered weapons and ammunition yesterday in the first raids on Orange halls in Northern Ireland. Until the raids, no Orange hall had been searched by the British Army.

The meeting places of the Protestant Loyal Orange Order. The raids were described as among the highest in Protestant areas.

In the Shankill Road men of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, searched the caretaker's house next to the West Belfast Orange Hall and then the hall. In the attic of the house and above the hall they found 14 pistols, 18 rifles and shotguns, four home-made mortars, six smoke grenades, 5,000 rounds of ammunition, and some explosives. They also took away swords and a crossbow.

The weapons seized included sporting rifles, a machine pistol, and two army-issue rifles thought to have been stolen from the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Information discovered in the raid led to the arrest of the 3rd Battalion, The Infantry, to search the Sandy Row Orange Hall. They found six rifles, five pistols, 1,000 rounds of ammunition, one grenade, two home-made mortars, and two machine-gun barrels.

The raids came after information obtained when 21 men were arrested in north Belfast some weeks ago.

The weapons were all well cared for and wrapped in cloth, but some were issued during the 1914-18 War and others were issued to the original Ulster Volunteer Force of 1912. The arms may have belonged to a group known as the Orange Volunteers.

After the first raid a man aged 74 was detained and questioned. Mr. Walter Williams, secretary of the Grand Orange Lodge of

Ireland, said the arms discoveries were a surprise.

"The Orange Order is a non-violent organization," he said. "I have had no evidence pointing to the fact that arms were being kept in Orange halls."

The halls were used for all sorts of gatherings, and the guns and medical equipment, which were also found, might have been there in case of a "holocaust".

He promised an investigation. Gunrunners to visit Ireland: The official Sinn Féin movement, the political voice of the official IRA, is likely to cause some embarrassment to the British and Irish governments next month when it holds a conference of left-wing political activists from various parts of the world in Dublin and Belfast (Robert Fisk writes).

Representatives of Palestinian, Arab, and Spanish guerrilla groups are expected to attend the conference, which is described as "a festival of international solidarity against imperialism".

The organisers insist that there will be no former hijackers rubbing shoulders with their members and that all discussion will be of a purely political nature: Sino Fein, for example, will be giving lectures on the view of the history of Ireland. But right-wing Unionist politicians in the north are suggesting that the debates will amount to little more than an international terrorist conference.

Three representatives of Palestinian revolutionary organizations and representatives of Basque and Catalan groups have agreed to attend and the heads of every socialist country in Eastern Europe have been asked to send delegates.

The delegates, who will pay \$10 a head for their seven-day stay, will arrive in Dublin on July 22 and leave Belfast on July 29, when the conference ends after three or four days.

## Hunger strikes opposed

By a Staff Reporter

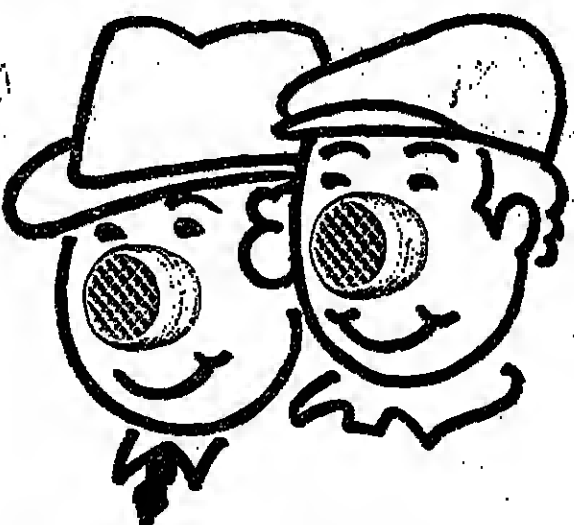
Nearly six people out of ten questioned in an Opinion Research Centre poll conducted by Independent Television News would support a policy of "no compromise" with hunger strikers, even if it entailed bomb attacks in retaliation.

Only one in every 20 of the sample of 650 people questioned thought the British authorities should accede to the demands of prisoners who deliberately endanger their lives by going on hunger strike.

In the poll, conducted yesterday, 21 per cent thought hunger strikers should be fed by force, 71 per cent said "no action" should be taken in such cases.

Pressure to classify the IRA as an illegal organization in Britain is reflected in the 81 per cent who agreed with the sample of 650 people questioned that the British authorities should accede to the demands of prisoners who deliberately endanger their lives by going on hunger strike.

Restricting entry of citizens of the Irish Republic into the United Kingdom was favoured by 75 per cent.



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## Suspended priest may appeal to Rome 'for justice and a fair trial'

From Arthur Osman  
Wolverhampton

Father Michael Connolly, the suspended Roman Catholic priest, remained defiant yesterday and clearly felt a sense of injustice about the action by Dr Dwyer, Archbishop of Birmingham.

Father Connolly said that if necessary he would appeal to Rome "for justice and a fair trial".

But he was not apparently deflected enough to carry out parish duties, as he threatened on Tuesday night. It is unlikely, for example, that he would defy church discipline to officiate at the three special Masses being said at his church, St Joseph's, Wolverhampton, today to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. Another priest has been ordered to do so by Mr Joseph Cleary, Bishop Auxiliary and Vicar-General of the Birmingham archdiocese.

Father Connolly considered that Dr Dwyer had suspended him "due to pressure from the world of journalism".

Dr Dwyer, an affable and courteous man, held a brief and impromptu press conference later yesterday after he had

celebrated Mass at Olton Franciscan monastery, Solihull, where he had been attending a meeting of the Catholic Women's League. He said: "I have seen Father Connolly's statement, and I really do not think—in fact, I have no wish to make any statement about it. I have made no arrangements to see him, but I am certainly willing to do so if and when he contacts me. The meeting will be very much a family affair."

Dr Dwyer said he had no wish to be drawn into a discussion about canonical law, but said that Father Connolly "is one of my boys" and that he would be an ecclesiastical court in the archdiocese. Ultimately he could, if he felt so disposed, appeal to the Pope. "But in the meantime he will accept my disposition," Dr Dwyer added.

Earlier in the day, promptly at the hour he had indicated, Father Connolly, who has the build and presence of a rugby prop forward, came to the front of the church, called a press conference in the parish hall, and at its conclusion declined to answer questions and

walked out. The statement said: "I attended the funeral of Michael Gaughan not only because he was a young Irishman who gave his life for his conviction that Irish people alone should decide the future of Ireland, but also because he was my cousin and my neighbour's child. Before leaving my parish I requested and was granted leave of absence by my immediate superior, Bishop Cleary. On the morning that young Michael's body arrived in London, June 8, Father C. Jenkins, a Benedictine monk of Belmont Abbey, issued a statement through The Times calling on all priests to deny hunger strikers not only the last rites of the church but also Christian burial. As a priest I had to do as I was bidden. I am a priest in the Catholic tradition who die for their conscience, whether they are right or wrong. Even the pagan Romans claimed that no evil should be spoken of the dead. I have now been convicted of speaking against my conscience and my bishop, due to pressure from the world of journalism, has been forced to suspend me."

My suspension has been due to saying that a man who died in his conscience is a great man. Against such suspension on which Catholic Church can give up all claim to any prophetic role in the world."

When the Anglican Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Rev. John Fisher, is

thereby automatically relieved of his priestly duties. If what I said is against the teaching of the Catholic Church, and is proved in an ecclesiastical court where I have a right to defend myself, I accept the decision of the court. If, however, what I have said is not against the teaching of my church, but only against the present mood of the press or the present policy of the Government, I cannot accept this decision.

Like St Paul before me, I appeal to Rome. A parish priest has rights guaranteed by church law, and these rights cannot be suspended without due canonical procedures. The fact that I only heard by radio of my bishop's decision is sufficient sign that the full process of law has not been invoked against me. As a parish priest I have a right for my case to be heard and for what I said to be examined, not just by the press or television but by a canonical court.

Is a priest bound to agree with the Government, or is he free to say what is in his heart? Is Father Jenkins free to say that my claims should not receive Christian burial, and am I not free to say that because he died for his conscience he is a great man? Is there nobody in Britain today free to say that current British policy in Ireland may be wrong? If this is so, then the Catholic Church can give up all claim to any prophetic role in the world."

doing through carpet-bombing of German cities he stood alone, but he was right. As a Catholic priest in accordance with the British Government of being wrong in Ireland I stand alone but, like Bishop Bell, I may be right. Thomas More and Thomas à Becket, who fell foul of English governments, were also right.

Christian priests and Christian people have been forced before to take a stand against the policy of the Government. For myself, I am forced to take a stand today. What is new to the situation is not that a priest should be obliged to disagree with a government but that a bishop should feel obliged to silence a priest because of press reports and because he follows his conscience.

Is there any example in history when a priest who spoke against a government met with official approval? Did Jesus Christ himself meet with official approval? Did St Paul for St Thomas More or St John Fisher meet with official approval? In bygone days I would have been hanged, drawn and quartered not only because of what I said but because I was a priest and an Irishman.

Is it a crime to tell the British people today that the policy of the Government in Ireland is not right? As a priest who has served for 25 years in England I am convinced that the vast majority of English people agree that British policy in Ireland is not bringing peace, and that Britain should declare her intent to withdraw. I believe the vast majority of people are beginning to suspect that they are not being told the truth about Northern Ireland, a country which is as quickly as possible I challenge any agency, whether church or state, to put this test. I have worked long among ordinary English people to know that they time for the torture and punishment without trial taking place in Northern Ireland. The press and the public that I should not make a stand on Ireland, while it is time to distort and confound. As a priest I have a speak the truth as I know it. A parish priest has a church law which cannot be suspended by the arbitrary of a bishop. I appeal for rights as a citizen to free speech and to my rights as a priest. I appeal to the law. After reading the St Bishop Cleary said: "I bishop is perfectly well power to order the fast pension. We do not embarrassment and I do the word 'eviction' or 'use of the parish' or 'use of the presbytery', but have to leave and I request him to do so."

## Wages policy 'to help Britain out of mess'

By Raymond Ferman  
Labour Staff

The basic form of the voluntary wages policy which the Government intend to replace Phase Three was agreed yesterday by the influential TUC economic committee.

The committee accepted virtually unchanged the confidential draft document, reported in The Times on Tuesday, which the TUC's part of the "social contract". After being considered by the liaison committee between the TUC and the Labour Party, and by the full TUC General Council, the document will be published. It is likely to form the basis of the Government's statement to the Commons on incomes policy.

Unions are asked to hold back wage claims to the level where they just keep up with the rise in the cost of living; not to seek to reopen present pay settlements before they expire; and to stand by the present principle of 12 months between major increases.

During the economic committee's discussion Mr Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, made clear that he regarded the 12-month rule as a general principle, not a binding agreement.

Since the Withersforce inquiry in 1972 the miners have been trying to get back to November 1 as the date from which their settlements run, rather than March 1. If they achieve that point this year, it will mean that the pay agreement reached after the general election will have lasted only eight months.

After the meeting Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said the voluntary pay policy had to be flexible; it would not be a rigid, statutory policy imposed by the TUC. But if unions, or groups of unions negotiating together, found difficulty in conforming to the spirit of the policy they would be expected to discuss it with the TUC.

The policy, he said, was designed to help Britain out of the mess left by the three-year wage-price spiral which has brought world prices, particularly in oil, which was a massive drain on the balance of payments, and it was designed to improve investment in industry.

Workers were not responsible for the state of the economy. "We are suffering from a mess which does not have its roots in the last six months or in the last 10 years. It goes back a long way to the inadequate performance of British industry."

What the TUC was trying to get out of it. "The essential objective was to see that real incomes were maintained. Unions would be urged to concentrate on the long-standing aims of the TUC in improving industrial productivity and ensuring greater security for people in their work."

Mr Murray replied to the attack on the Government's industrial policy by the Conservative Party, saying that the Government was not restoring industrial fortunes and getting Britain back to a firm industrial base.

## Tories want chairman to take off the gloves

By John Groser  
Political Staff

When the Conservative backbenchers' committee meets tonight the widespread support for the appointment of Mr Whitelaw as chairman of the party will doubtless be volubly expressed. Many MPs are saying in private that, with the Conservatives' present position, they need a strong leader to bring to Mr Whitelaw's attention the urgency of putting the Conservative Party machine into top gear for an autumn election.

Some MPs who have been saying the time has come for "all-out opposition" to the Government will exhort Mr Whitelaw to stop the shadow-hoaxing, take off the gloves and commence battle properly.

Mr Whitelaw will, of course, need no reminding that he has not a great deal of time at his disposal and shadow ministers are reported to have it on the gravestone that the Prime Minister is already canvassing dates for an election very early in the autumn. It is no consolation to the Opposition to know that he is being pressured into an early election by many of his colleagues, for whatever the reasons may be, an early election is what many Conservative MPs fear.

Yesterday Mr Whitelaw said he was convinced that strong political parties were an essential feature of democratic societies. It was in that spirit that he took on his new role as chairman.

Speaking in London, he said he was quite clear about the way in which party political controversy should be conducted in the best interests of the country. "There are those issues on which the parties are clearly divided," he said. "These should be fought honestly, clearly and without personal bitterness. The Conservative Party has always been broadly based, he continued, and there could be no question of sudden changes purely for doctrinaire reasons."

## Magistrate dismissed over stand on rates

From Our Correspondent  
York

A magistrate has been dismissed after refusing to take action over non-payment of rates. Colonel John Derbyshire, a retired officer, now a schoolmaster, aged 61, was dismissed after his usual seat when the magistrates sat at Pocklington, east Yorkshire, yesterday, said later that a letter from the Lord Chancellor's Office had told him he had been removed as a magistrate.

"As a result of my very strong views on rates," he said, "I am surprised," he

said. "But I intend to continue the fight against the staggering increases."

Colonel Derbyshire, vice-chairman of the Pocklington bench, last month refused to sign distress warrants against rate defaulters appearing before him. He said that in the interests of justice he would not sign any warrant for a rate increase of more than 10 per cent of last year's demand.

Mr Derbyshire, Secretary of the Pocklington Bench, said that a letter from the Lord Chancellor's Office, said a magistrate had to apply the law, even if he strongly disagreed with it. If he was not prepared to do that he could not remain on a bench.

## Call for new race laws

Sweeping changes are needed in Britain's immigration laws, including a redefinition of "white" and "non-white", a Liberal Party spokesman said yesterday. It says a report on immigration and race relations, published yesterday, if it is a royal commission, should be set up immediately.

The report rejects an immigration policy based on numerical calculations and attacks the "colour blindness" of Conservative and Labour governments from 1962 onwards. Both are accused of feeding demands for more restrictions.

"The enactment of a policy

hostile to immigrants has raised almost impenetrable barriers in the way of anything which could improve relations between immigrant and native communities," the report says.

A negative policy of "control for control's sake" based on the assumption that the numbers of people could be controlled in the same way as exports and imports was rejected.

The report says the definition of citizenship should be based on residence and domicile and should include all children of British-born parents and those who are not members of any other country.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Tomorrow	After Tomorrow
Sun rises: 4.45 am Sun sets: 8.16 pm Moon rises: 12.45 am Moon sets: 1.35 pm Last Quarter: 2.45 am Lighting up: 9.45 am High water: London Bridge, 8.1 am (9.7 ft); 8.2 am (9.7 ft) Low water: London Bridge, 12.45 am (19.7 ft); 1.25 pm (16.3 ft) Dover, 5.20 am (5.3 ft); 5.43 pm (5.3 ft) Hall, 12.8 am (5.3 ft); 1.25 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.1 am (5.3 ft); 5.20 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.20 pm (5.3 ft); 5.35 pm (5.3 ft)	cloudy; wind: NE, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (60°F); cooler over coasts; max temp 15°C (60°F) Sun rises: 4.45 am Sun sets: 8.16 pm Moon rises: 12.45 am Moon sets: 1.35 pm Last Quarter: 2.45 am Lighting up: 9.45 am High water: London Bridge, 8.1 am (9.7 ft); 8.2 am (9.7 ft) Low water: London Bridge, 12.45 am (19.7 ft); 1.25 pm (16.3 ft) Dover, 5.20 am (5.3 ft); 5.43 pm (5.3 ft) Hall, 12.8 am (5.3 ft); 1.25 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.1 am (5.3 ft); 5.20 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.20 pm (5.3 ft); 5.35 pm (5.3 ft)	cloudy; wind: NE, light or moderate; max temp 15°C (60°F); cooler over coasts; max temp 15°C (60°F) Sun rises: 4.45 am Sun sets: 8.16 pm Moon rises: 12.45 am Moon sets: 1.35 pm Last Quarter: 2.45 am Lighting up: 9.45 am High water: London Bridge, 8.1 am (9.7 ft); 8.2 am (9.7 ft) Low water: London Bridge, 12.45 am (19.7 ft); 1.25 pm (16.3 ft) Dover, 5.20 am (5.3 ft); 5.43 pm (5.3 ft) Hall, 12.8 am (5.3 ft); 1.25 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.1 am (5.3 ft); 5.20 pm (5.3 ft) Lough, 5.20 pm (5.3 ft); 5.35 pm (5.3 ft)

<b>Yesterday</b>		
London Temp: 15° pm, 18°C (64°F) 7 pm, 15°C (59°F) 7 per cent. Rain Sun, 2.9 Bar, mean sea level millibars, falling 1,000 millibars		2.9
<b>At the resorts</b>		
24-hours to 6 pm	Sun rises	sets
<b>E COAST</b>		
Sewborough	7.7	16
Wickhampton	16.3	31
Weymouth	9.1	16
Clevedon-on-S	7.7	16
Marnage	3.2	17
<b>S COAST</b>		
Weymouth	6.9	16
Wickhampton	2.9	18
Brighthelm	2.4	19
Bournemouth	6.6	20
Weymouth	10.1	21
Seaboard	11.2	22
Bournemouth	11.5	22
Weymouth	12.1	23
Weymouth	12.3	23
Petersham	12.3	20



# An important move in the City

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HOME NEWS

# Commissioner says experimental police teams may have to meet dire London manpower loss

By Clive Botrell

Manpower shortage in the Metropolitan Police force is so acute that uniformed officers are having to work the equivalent of six days a week to maintain patrols.

That was disclosed yesterday by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, who added: "I dread to think how many hours of overtime the detectives have to work."

Sir Robert said they now had about 800 men fewer in the Metropolitan Police than in 1971, although the provincial forces had risen from 38,000 to 76,000 during the same period.

One of the most alarming facts in his report shows that during last year 238 officers left London to join provincial forces. Many who asked for transfers opted for rural areas in the Thames Valley, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, Bath and Somerset.

Provisional figures for this year show a net loss of about a hundred of whom 39 left to force disciplinary proceedings. In 1973 a total of 90 officers left for disciplinary reasons.



Sir Robert Mark: Officers leaving London for provincial forces.

"The organization of the 43 forces in England and Wales is excellent, and yet the machinery cannot be attracted and distributed where it is needed most," Sir Robert told a press conference at Scotland Yard.

"We cannot go on for ever losing men at this rate without being required to consider new and experimental methods of policing. The best system may have to go in some areas where there is a dire shortage and we would have to rely on team or 'fire brigade' policing, drafting the men into an area when required for emergencies."

A survey to find out why so many men opt for the country forces after a spell in London indicated three main complaints from young officers. The most often repeated complaint concerned the long hours the men have to work, an average of 46 a week. Housing and the high cost of mortgages is a close second, with cost and time spent travelling to and from duty each day a third reason.

Cancellation of police leave at short notice caused strains on family life, Sir Robert said. An unfortunate aspect of London life was the demonstrations which could not be forecast.

"I think that there is a strong case for a special allowance for working in London, as with all other public services. I think that £500 a year is about the minimum we should offer."

Sir Robert, commenting that the force had unprecedented success in detecting crime in 1973, statistics for the first quarter of this year showed that crime was 19 per cent up on the corresponding period for 1973.

Homicide and assaults were up 13 per cent, robberies and violent thefts 13 per cent, burglaries 17 per cent, car crimes 32 per cent.

Policing Heathrow: The Metropolitan will take over responsibility for policing Heathrow airport, London, from the British Airports Authority. Consular, under the Policing of Airports Bill published yesterday, should have been circulated by the executive to delegates.

## Nalgo reject TUC's 'cosy pay compact'

The TUC was accused yesterday of "a shocking turnabout" on Phase Three by the 500,000 Strong National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo).

A warning was also given at the association's annual conference in Brighton that there was no reason why Nalgo should join in "the cosy political act" of a social compact.

An emergency motion from the executive declared that it would not support any policy affecting income development created by the TUC and the Government without adequate prior consultation within the TUC, and steps to resolve public sector pay questions.

Mr Neil McLean, chairman of Nalgo's economic committee, said members had been shocked at the TUC turnabout on Phase Three, but even more shocked at the TUC's "cynical treat" of the association's London-weighting case.

The executive's view was that an important policy departure by the TUC General Council could not be implemented without the consent of affiliated unions.

Mr Elwyn Jones, an executive member for Montgomeryshire, said the clause enshrined a lie in the law. Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey, C) said it seemed to be a licence to lie.

## Government plans £900m outlay on British Rail within three years

By John Groser  
Political Staff

A new system of heavy financial support for the railways is contained in the Railways Bill, which was published yesterday. The Bill contains measures to adjust the British Railways Board's capital debt and borrowing powers and to provide for the financing of inherited pension liabilities.

Under the Bill's provisions the Board would be required to act on lines settled with the approval of the Government in formulating its business policies. The Secretary of State for the Environment would be given wider powers to obtain information about the board's activities.

Ministers say the Bill is the result of a review of rail policy started in 1972 under the Conservatives when it became clear that the board's financial position was deteriorating.

The Government believes that the sort of rail network being maintained by the board is needed by the country and that therefore the country has to pay to maintain it.

That means a commitment of at least £900m in government spending over the three years beginning next January. If more is needed Parliament will be asked to allow it. The Bill is due to receive its second reading in the Commons on June 24.

While financing on this scale clearly is going to be a burden to the taxpayer, the Government

has taken the precaution of writing to almost a hundred big companies in Britain inviting them either to move over or to extend their use of freight services. If that campaign can be made effective, a large part of the financing could be met from industry.

Clause one of the Bill deals with the reconstruction of capital debt. On January 1, next the capital debt the board has incurred with the Government will be reduced from £439m to £250m to reflect a new accounting system whereby most track and signalling expenditure previously on capital account will in future be charged to revenue account.

## 'Stakes driven into corpses in cemetery'

Vampires were said haunting a London cemetery where stakes were taken from coffins and driven into the hearts of the dead.

Liam Law, foreman of the jury at the trial of a person who was said to have dug up a relative's body lying on the ground of the cemetery.

The prosecution alleged the "vampire" was Robert, aged 28, said to be a priest of the British Society. It says he stole and held nude stakes in the cemetery.

Mr Farrant denied charges of damaging a grave to the dead and of causing damage to graves and of open carcases and in with corpses.

Mr Francis King, an I and writer on black magic, said the court that the cemetery was a necromantic place.

The idea of the ceremony to bring life temporarily to a dead body so that it could be used to find treasure or to send on an evil mission.

Mr Farrant, who is living his own defence, said the signs had any do with necromancy. He said he was involved with side of witchcraft and had to do with black magic.

The trial continues to

## Clause in Bill 'a licence to lie'

By Our Parliamentary Staff

A clause in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill, which was said to appear to involve a clash between ethics and law, was agreed to by the Commons standing committee on the Bill yesterday after criticism by some members.

Mr Emlyn Hooson, Liberal member for Montgomeryshire, said the clause enshrined a lie in the law. Mrs Lynda Chalker (Wallasey, C) said it seemed to be a licence to lie.

The purpose of the Bill is to rehabilitate offenders not re-convicted of any serious offence for a number of years, penalize the unauthorized disclosure of previous convictions, and amend the law of defamation.

The clause under discussion provides that a rehabilitated person should be treated as a person who had not committed an offence and that in court he should not be required to answer any question relating to a spent conviction, and that the answer to any such question "may be framed accordingly".

The Bill, which was presented by Mr Peter Dixon (Truro, C), has Government support and drafting assistance.

Mr Lyon, Minister of State, Home Office, said the real question was whether in justice it was right that a man who was convicted of an offence that was not serious should later be able to live as if he had never been convicted.

## Mr Wynne drops action BBC spy programme

Mr Wynne, the British businessman imprisoned in Russia for 13 months for spying, has withdrawn legal proceedings against the BBC over a radio programme about espionage.

He had alleged that the BBC had used parts of his book *The Man from Moscow* to "character and colour" the programme, *The Penkovsky Riddle*, which should have been broadcast last July in the Radio 4 series *Great Modern Spies*.

Mr Wynne said the programme would infringe his copyright because material was taken from his book without his authority. Yesterday, the BBC, in a statement, said it was "not aware of any legal proceedings for an injunction for alleged breach of copyright" had been withdrawn.

"Mr Wynne, while maintaining the propriety of his claim, wishes to repeat what was said on his behalf during the proceedings, namely, that he does not suggest any impropriety on the part of the BBC."

Mr Wynne was granted an injunction on July 5 to prevent the BBC from broadcasting that day. Later, the High Court, granting an injunction, said the programme would be "a trial of the BBC, or order".

The court was told material sources, about Oleg Penkovsky, the "double agent" who, with Mr Wynne in 1953, was strictly in prison, were strictly confidential and that for the "real" one had to turn to Mr Wynne's book. Later the BBC fully applied to the Court of Appeal to have the order set aside.

Mr Wynne was exiled in 1954 for the Soviet spy, Lonsdale, who was serving a 10-year sentence.

## Father gets five years for cruelty to girl

Ram Chand, aged 38, father of eight children, was sent to prison at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday for five years after being found guilty of cruelty to his daughter, aged three.

Mr Chand, of Mordock Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, was found not guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to the girl, with intent but guilty of causing grievous bodily harm and guilty of cruelty to a person under 16.

Mr Alan Arncliffe, for the prosecution, said the girl, Jano Kaur, was admitted to hospital with severe bruising to her feet, and as a result of infection two thirds of her right foot had to be amputated.

In evidence, Mr Chand denied putting his daughter's feet near or on the fire. He had never done anything to his daughter's legs to cause her harm, he said.

Judith Rost, aged daughter of Mr Peter Conservative MP, for Shire, South-east, who is missing from home since day morning, was found after a 36-hour search.

Two detectives found her a quarter of a mile from her home at Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire.

More than 50 policemen and a helicopter searched the girl, who said: "I was in the house and stayed the night. I did go occasionally and the very nice. I slept on son of hay inside, and all I to eat some ears of corn."

Mr Rost said: "We were happy that she's back safe and sound and I thank and praise the police."

Later, he added, she was agitated and upset because she did not want to become a nun. She insisted on him back to his car.

The next thing he knew was when he saw a report of a rape in a paper the next evening.

The trial continues to

## Constable says dancer invited him into chalet

From Our Correspondent

Norwich. Police Constable Robert John Buttolph, accused of raping a dancer, alleged at Norwich Crown Court yesterday that she not only enjoyed having intercourse with him but invited him to do so.

PC Buttolph, aged 27, a married man, of Lingwood, Norfolk, has pleaded not guilty to raping a dancer with the Black and White Minstrel Show.

On the night concerned, he told the court, he went for a walk by the riverside. He saw a light on outside one of the chalets and there was a young woman in the driveway closing the double gates.

He said he asked if she was staying there and she replied that she was there on her own. "I said it was a nice night but a

bit cold and she said: 'come inside', and I did."

PC Buttolph said the dancer got round to sex and the young woman he or have children for medical reasons. They had intercourse twice and then three acts of oral sex.

PC Buttolph said that day or the next "at what was happening was birthday present."

Later, he added, she was agitated and upset because she did not want to become a nun. She insisted on him back to his car.

The next thing he knew was when he saw a report of a rape in a paper the next evening.

The trial continues to

## Ombudsman post for Lady Serota

Lady Serota was appointed yesterday as one of the first three local government ombudsmen. The commissioners will investigate complaints of maladministration against local authorities and water authorities in England and Wales.

The other commissioners are Mr D. B. Harrison, aged 56, former Town Clerk of Sheffield, and Mr J. P. Cook, aged 41, chief executive of the English Tourist Board.

The funeral service for the Duke of Gloucester, at St. George's, will be held on BBC-1 television, starting at 10.50 am, the first royal funeral service to be televised.

## Birmingham Art Gallery damage charged

A man accused of damage estimated at £30,000 to works of art in the Birmingham Art Gallery on was remanded in custody by Birmingham Magistrate yesterday until June 21.

Brian Peter Hanson, of no fixed address, is with damaging or destruction of property, a charge of Rape of Prosperina by Gianlorino Bernini, of the Grand Duke's Castle, Novelli, and a painting of Tempted in the Wilder Paulus Brili.

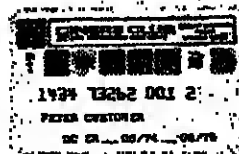
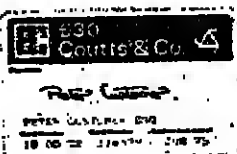
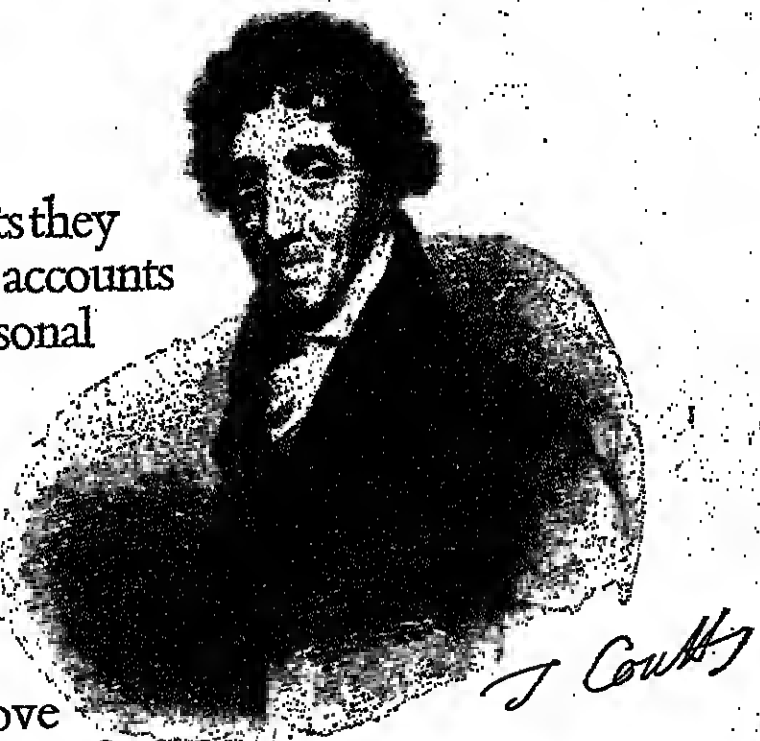
## Duke's service on TV

The funeral service for the Duke of Gloucester, at St. George's, will be held on BBC-1 television, starting at 10.50 am, the first royal funeral service to be televised.

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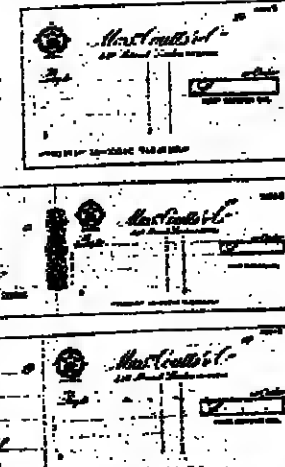


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DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
19 JAN 74	OPENING PAYMENT		25.00	25.00
20 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		15.00
21 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		5.00
22 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(5.00)
23 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(15.00)
24 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(25.00)
25 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(35.00)
26 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(45.00)
27 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(55.00)
28 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(65.00)
29 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(75.00)
30 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(85.00)
31 JAN 74	CASH	10.00		(95.00)
1 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(105.00)
2 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(115.00)
3 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(125.00)
4 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(135.00)
5 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(145.00)
6 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(155.00)
7 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(165.00)
8 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(175.00)
9 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(185.00)
10 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(195.00)
11 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(205.00)
12 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(215.00)
13 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(225.00)
14 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(235.00)
15 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(245.00)
16 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(255.00)
17 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(265.00)
18 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(275.00)
19 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(285.00)
20 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(295.00)
21 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(305.00)
22 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(315.00)
23 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(325.00)
24 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(335.00)
25 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(345.00)
26 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(355.00)
27 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(365.00)
28 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(375.00)
29 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(385.00)
30 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(395.00)
31 FEB 74	CASH	10.00		(405.00)

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# Miners' left-wing leaders issuing charter for coalfields to stir intimacy over pay and conditions

By Routledge correspondent

Leaders of the Union of Mineworkers showed their hand on strategy. A strongly militant, a new charter for coalfields, issued before the union's reference in two weeks, is a sign of the Scottish executive committee's intention to follow hard on the Government's next week of a militant programme for wages and conditions.

The charter, which is a 10-page document, is a sign of the Scottish executive committee's intention to follow hard on the Government's next week of a militant programme for wages and conditions.

The charter, which is a 10-page document, is a sign of the Scottish executive committee's intention to follow hard on the Government's next week of a militant programme for wages and conditions.



The Prince of Wales taking part in a firing exercise yesterday with the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, at Knock Camp, Salisbury Plain. He is colonel-in-chief of the regiment.

# 'Open' students group threatened by rifts

By Tim Deylin Education Correspondent

The 10,000-strong students' association at the Open University is in danger of being broken up because of personality clashes between its leaders. Many of its members are disillusioned and have declined to pay their £1 annual subscriptions.

Four hundred students in London have formed their own regional association, and other association branches are following suit. The association is short of money. Three leading members have resigned from their posts in the past three months.

The Open University set up the association less than two years ago but has since left it to carry on by itself. A university council meeting last month took the unusual step of expressing concern at recent events but said it would not intervene unless there was a serious threat to the good name and integrity of the university.

Mr Eric Begbie, the association's president, resigned last April after his national council had refused to circulate his plans for giving more autonomy to the association's 60 branches. He has since withdrawn his resignation.

In a letter to Mr Rex O'Hare, the general secretary, Mr Begbie explained that in the past few weeks the correspondence "floating about" suggested that there was a danger that the association would tear itself apart.

Mr Begbie, aged 29, director of social work for Fife County Council, also referred in his letter to an attempt to set up an alternative organization because of the disarray in the association.

His offer to continue as president will be discussed on Saturday at a meeting of the 35 members of the national council. Few other people are willing to take on the job.

Mrs Millicent Mareland, the association's first president, resigned as vice-president in March. Last month she told the council's executive to "stop committing hara-kiri".

Mrs Rosemary Carter, who resigned as assistant general secretary, was quoted in the university's newspaper, *Sesame*, as saying that she could "no longer work for an organization which seems to have forgotten its reason for being".

But she said yesterday that the remark had been taken out of context. "Obviously we have got to have some difficulties. Any new organization does."

The council has set up a special team to define the duties of Mr O'Hare, the general secretary, and it will report on Saturday. There is discussion over how much discretion the post should be given, or whether Mr O'Hare should simply carry out the instructions of the elected officers.

The association gets a grant of £16,500 a year from the university. Only half the 10,000 long-standing members have so far renewed their subscriptions, although the council has received a further £1,000 from new members. Mr O'Hare has estimated that the association needs £45,000 a year if it is to run properly.

# Flixborough claims 'over £30m'

By Our Business News Staff

Insurance claims from the chemical plant disaster at Flixborough will almost certainly be the biggest in Britain since the war, the Reinsurance Offices Association said yesterday.

Fire and consequential loss claims at the plant itself are likely to cost between £25m and £30m, and the total figure, including loss of property might substantially exceed that figure.

Mr Julius Neave, chairman, said: "Flixborough is only the latest in a series of disasters the London insurance market has had to cope with this year. Orders include the Queensland floods, the United States tornado in April and the first loss of a wide-bodied jet in the crash outside Paris."

Mr Neave, speaking on the association's annual report, said that because the scale of disasters seemed to be increasing and the cost to the insurance industry was rising to unprecedented levels, the industry must look closely at the risks it is prepared to carry.

The frightening growth of politically motivated crimes worries reinsurers (those companies and syndicates who share risks with principal insurers) tremendously, Mr Neave said.

# ap gravel might cut of Maplin

Reed correspondent

Building the third part, together with a 100m terminal, would cost 40m less than originally estimated, according to a report published yesterday by the Development Commission.

The report says that the total cost of the project, including the terminal, would be £170m, compared with the £210m originally estimated. The report also says that the terminal could be built on a 100m site, which would save 40m.

The report also says that the terminal could be built on a 100m site, which would save 40m.

# er burnt feet cigarette

Correspondent

Smith, aged 20, had to have burnt feet, aged 20 months, at Nottingham yesterday for a cigarette.

Mr Pitches, for the prosecution, said that Mrs. Smith, a 20-year-old woman, was found with her feet burnt by a cigarette. The cigarette was found in her hand.

The judge, Mr. Justice, said that the defendant was guilty of a criminal offence. He sentenced her to a fine of £100.

# Solicitor 'lived in world of fantasy'

A solicitor who was said to have a personality handicap was ordered by the Law Society's Disciplinary Committee yesterday to be struck off for professional unfitness.

Mr James Hayes, aged 60, of Warwick Road, Worcester, who was admitted as a solicitor in 1937, was found guilty of failing to honour a professional undertaking to deal with the affairs of two clients with reasonable expedition; failing to answer correspondence addressed to him by the Law Society, and practising as a solicitor without a current practising certificate.

The committee said a psychiatric report indicated that he had lived in a world of fantasy, producing "chronic lassitude and procrastination". He was prepared to undertake never to work again as a solicitor.

A London solicitor who had previously qualified in Australia, Mr Derek Eshorn, of Holmdene Avenue, Herne Hill, who was admitted in 1970, was ordered to be struck off for forging a testimonial and using it for the purposes of deception.

Solicitors have 14 days in which to appeal against the committee's orders.

The committee ordered that the name of Mr Paul Anthony Glynn Aldington, of The Mermaid Inn, Bishopscote, Kent, should be restored to the solicitors' roll. Mr Aldington had been struck off in May, 1965, for unbecoming conduct.

# choose a candidate

at Norwich have Brian Baxter, a Swaffham, as their parliamentary candidate.

South-west Norfolk, a former candidate, was chosen by the voters. The voters chose Mr. Baxter as their candidate.

# to cut cost of taking cases to court

Berlin correspondent

A streamlining of the system of civil procedure, making it cheaper, simpler and more efficient, is proposed by Justice, the Law Society and the Law Commission.

The proposals, which are being considered by the Law Commission, include a number of changes to the way in which cases are brought to court.

The proposals include a number of changes to the way in which cases are brought to court.

# The Volvo Fact Kit. Once you've got it, it's unlikely your interest in the Peugeot, Granada, Rover, Triumph and Audi will last for long.

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T/06 **VOLVO**







## EAST EUROPE

Socialists and Republicans state  
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new centre-left coalition Cabinet

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Crisis talks: Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, leaving the Presidential Palace yesterday after being consulted by President Leone.

He appealed in the name of all Italian industrialists for a prompt solution to the problem of forming a new government.

The political mathematics of the crisis offer little indication of where the solution can be sought with the exception that any foreseeable administration will be led by a Christian Democrat.

The position in the two Houses is as follows (Parties asterisked belonged to or supported the outgoing Government):

Parties	Chamber	Senate
Christian Democrats (*)	285	137
Socialists (*)	81	34
Social Democrats (*)	21	12
Republicans (*)	15	7
Communists	175	74
Proletarian Unity	30	10
Liberals	50	26
MSI (Neo-Fascists)	20	8
Others	60	312

The Republicans, who backed the last Government without accepting ministries, have placed weighty conditions on their support of a new government.

Signor Ugo la Malfa, their leader and a former Minister of the Treasury in the last Government but one, says that he would back a government "which, providing the necessary democratic guarantees, has a severe and rigorous programme, such as would stop the

further decline of this country and open the road to its difficult, laborious and hard revival.

"And the Government would only be supported in so far as its actions corresponded to its promises," he stated. If such a government should emerge from the current crisis, Italy would indeed be on a fresh political path.

Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist Party leader, said on leaving the Presidential Palace after having been consulted by President Leone:

"Apart from the internal differences within the coalition, the crisis throws light on the basic contradiction in the Italian political situation. On the one hand, there is the reality of a country rich in energy, working capacity and democratic will; on the other, there are governments, with confused and incoherent approaches, devoid of moral vigour and unstable."

He added that this situation could not continue. The country needed a political leadership capable of using the great potentialities of the workers and of the people, and by this he meant, he said, "A government based on the collaboration of all the popular forces."

Italian lesson for Europe, page 18

Nato happy  
over  
U.S. nuclear  
strategy

Oslo, June 12

From Our Correspondent

The American nuclear counterforce strategy gained general approval when the two-day meeting of the Nato nuclear planning group ended in Bergen today. The strategy was regarded as being in line with the general Nato idea of "flexible response."

During the talks, Mr. James Schlesinger, United States Secretary of Defence, explained the American position concerning the so-called "mini-nucs", the smallest of nuclear devices which can be used with small conventional weapons. He said this type of weapon did not accord with American views and interests.

It belonged to the "grey" area where the borderline between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons was blurred. The United States put greater emphasis on conventional weapons and the perfection of accuracy and "cleanness" of nuclear weapons.

During discussion of the East-West balance, it was disclosed that Russia's technological progress had been faster than expected. This was especially so for multi-warhead nuclear weapons. This seemed to imply a threat to America's technological superiority in production of key weapons.

Mr. Schlesinger showed mini-sters and military chiefs satellite pictures of various aspects of Russia's development of more sophisticated nuclear weapons.

The position of the Netherlands aroused some concern because of reductions in its defence budget, which the present Government is committed.

Mr. Vredeling, the Dutch Minister of Defence, gave an assurance that the reductions would not in any way affect the outcome of discussions going on about mutually balanced reduction of forces in Central Europe.

The Dutch combat-ready forces would be kept at their present level pending the outcome of these negotiations, he said. But delegates were apprehensive that Holland's defence capacity might be affected.

Countries represented at the meeting were the United States, Canada, Britain, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece and Norway.

Danish tax case  
MP loses  
his immunity

From Our Correspondent

Copenhagen, June 12

The Danish Folketing today removed the parliamentary immunity of M. Mogens Glistrup, the Progress Party leader, to allow the state attorney to indict him provisionally on fraud, tax evasion and other charges.

Mr. Glistrup has been under investigation since he claimed three years ago that he had arranged investments so that he paid no income tax. Today's vote was 134 in favour of removing immunity with 26 opposed.

In voting against the removal of immunity, the Progress Party argued that the charges were political and that Mr. Glistrup, president of the Folketing, answered that "in our modern parliamentary system the use of the courts by a government as a form of political pressure against a member must be very difficult to conceive."

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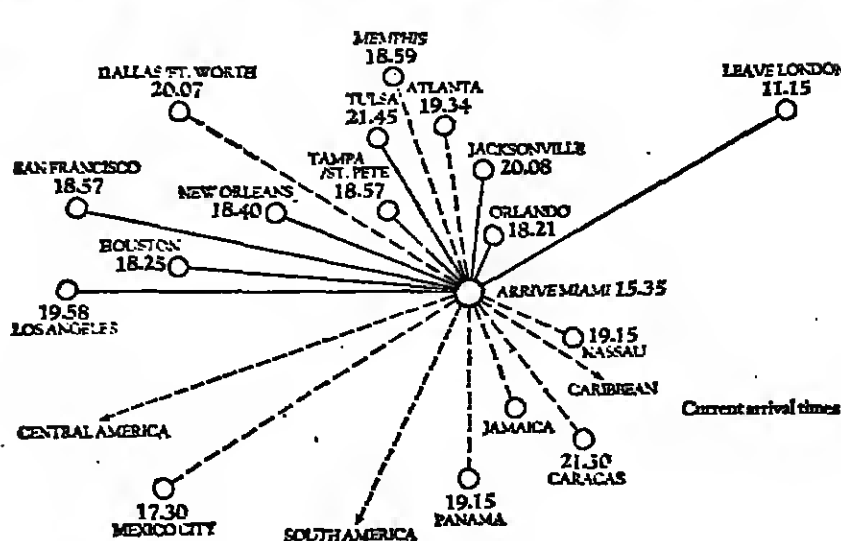
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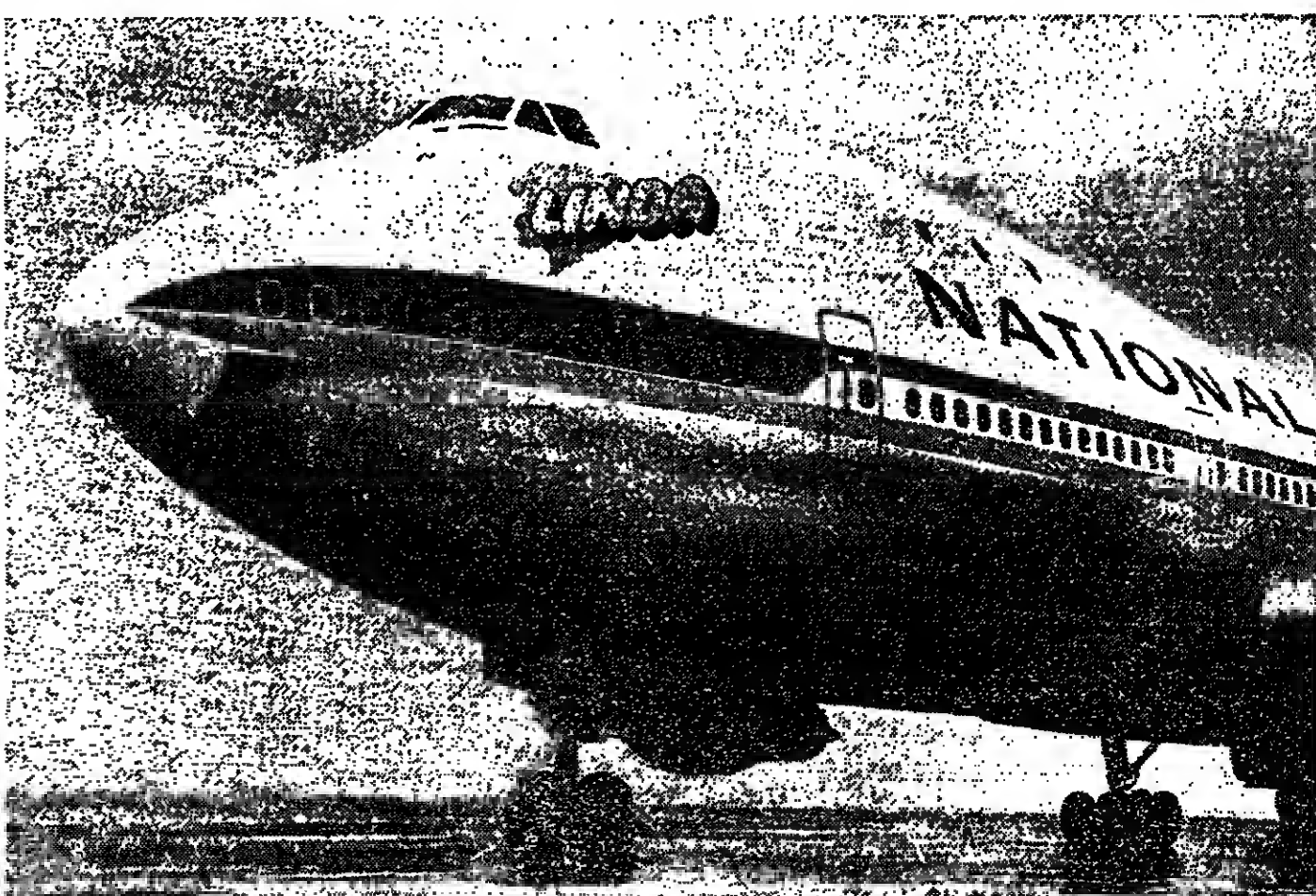
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Official

June 12

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Quality of Italian espionage  
results 'bewilderingly low'

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, June 12

Signor Andreotti, the Minister of Defence, made the remarkable confession in an interview published today that a great deal of money was spent on the official secret service but the standard of the results was "bewilderingly low."

The Minister's statement to this periodical *Il Mondo* could be taken as reassuring, but Signor Andreotti was clearly not intending to set people's minds at rest.

He confirmed the Parliament's directives of May, 1971, calling for the reorganization of the military counter-intelligence service and the destruction of the files it possessed on Italian citizens had been totally ignored. He said: "Nothing at all has been done. The rule with us is—much is created but nothing is destroyed."

A parliamentary commission which in 1969 and 1970 studied the problem of the military secret services, which are the heart of the security system, found that it had 157,000 files on Italians to which it is said at least another 34,000 have been added including files on industrialists, journalists, judges, politicians and trade unionists.

The secret services, particularly military counter-espionage, have lately been under renewed attack, not only for flouting Parliament's wishes but for alleged inefficiency, complicity with subversive elements and a general failure to have changed its ways despite what Parliament had to say three years ago.

One of the results last month of the Brescia bomb, which killed seven people at an anti-fascist demonstration, was the promise that a new department to combat political terrorism would be set up to replace the Ministry of the Interior's department for security matters.

All this would warrant little more than a shrug of the shoulder if it were not for the fact that Rome is unhappily and uncharacteristically a centre for international espionage. It is natural that the local security services should consequently be in demand by other people's espionage services. Certainly the abolition of the Department for Security Matters, which Signor Andreotti welcomed as a step in the right direction will have deprived some of the Western services at work here of their immediate contacts.

EEG left sends  
help to Lisbon

Strasbourg, June 12.—The Socialist group in the European Parliament is to provide its colleagues in Portugal with \$20,000 (about £3,500) and advice for setting up a new party organization.

Basques jailed  
for 40 years

Santander, June 12.—A military court here last night sentenced two members of the illegal Basque separatist organization ETA to 30 years' imprisonment for their part in the kidnapping of a wealthy industrialist.

Singer killed in  
Cannes shooting

Cannes, June 12.—Herb Coleman, a 46-year-old tenor of the American vocal group, the Delta Rhythm Boys, was shot and killed outside the Palm Beach Casino here at dawn today. A 29-year-old Frenchman was detained.

## Priest sent recruits to Frelimo

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, June 12

A Spanish missionary priest expelled from Mozambique last year admitted here today that he sent young Africans to join Frelimo—the Mozambique Liberation Front.

The priest's disclosures confirmed the close relationship between some European Catholic missionaries and Frelimo which was alleged by Portuguese authorities before the fall of the regime of Dr. Marcello Caetano.

Father Jose Maria Lechundi, of the Burgos Fathers based in Madrid, said that he and a fellow Spanish priest secretary returned to Mozambique this year via Tanzania and he was inside the Portuguese colony, in Frelimo-held territory, at the time of the military coup in Lisbon on April 25. He identified his companion on the trip as Father Vicente Berenguer.

Father Lechundi also claimed that Frelimo fighters shot down three Rhodesian Fiat aircraft at Fungo, near Tete, last March. He said two other Rhodesian Air Force aircraft were shot down at Cabo Delgado.

Speaking with undisguised sympathy for the African nationalist movement, the Basque-born priest added that he is convinced that Frelimo will not agree to negotiate with Portugal about the future of Mozambique until the Portuguese agree to independence for the colony. He said Frelimo are not convinced by promises of self-determination made by President Spínola.

Describing Frelimo training camps known as "Live-boxes" he said that an English woman and two Dutch couples were among teachers employed in Tanzania to give Frelimo recruits a basic education. He did not identify the English school teacher. He claimed that Frelimo had taught a million Africans to read and write.

Father Lechundi said that he







ERSEAS

## AU meeting opens th Waldheim assage of hope

disu, June 12.—Leaders of African countries met for the 10th annual conference of the Organisation of African States today to approve a series of resolutions which called for the independence of the colonies and the end of several European powers for their African.

rt Waldheim, Secretary of the United Nations, said at the meeting that the first time there was a chance for Portugal's colonies to achieve full independence.

ads of state, representatives of Africa's 100 million people will be in the days approve, probably minor modifications, of resolutions drawn up by their foreign ministers.

olutions deal principally with the question of the continent's last areas, but also cover the effect of rising oil prices on African economies and the need for a resolution called on "proclaim unequivocally the recognition of the inalienable right of the people of Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome to independence."

Another welcomed the current talks between Portugal and liberation groups and said: "The OAU encourages the parties concerned to continue the talks with a view to an early end to the conflicts."

The OAU condemned Britain for taking part in "clandestine talks" with Rhodesian leaders, France and other NATO countries for helping white governments in southern Africa to "prepare to put up a last-ditch struggle against decolonisation," and Spain for its continued administration of the Canary Islands.

Dr. Waldheim said in an interview with the Somali News Agency that he had established contact with Dr. Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, but that they had not exchanged detailed messages on the future of Portuguese African empire.

He added he felt for the first time there was a real chance the colonies would get independence in the foreseeable future.—UPI.

## Savory 'would have n black terrorist'

Correspondent June 12.—Savory, the former Rhodesian Party, if he had been born a Muslim he would be a He also told a party that the demand of a new leader of the National Council, for a party was also reasonable.

ments were destroyed by his successor, by Gibbs, who disavowed the party from Mr. Savory.

ry said that as long as the country continued with its institution there would be no settlement. "This may well prove to be our greatest failure. It can be maintained and changed only by the constitution, no

matter how many black voters there were they could not affect the government. What Rhodesia needed was a return to the common roll. The alternative was civil war.

The whole American Army could not restore order in Rhodesia because the country's battle was political, Mr. Savory said. "You don't fight an idea with force. You fight it with a better idea. You cannot beat communism with racialism."

Four more guerrillas have been killed by security forces in the past six days, bringing to 322 the total killed in the past 18 months during Rhodesia's border war.

A government statement added that four black civilians, three of them women, were killed and a boy seriously injured when a landmine blew up a lorry in the north-eastern border yesterday. Guerrillas also shot a black civilian.

## ges held treans on 'trial'

June 12.—Eritrean holding four American Canadians are planning to leave the country, according to forces in Addis Ababa.

all oil prospectors, with "exploiting all resources" of northern Eritrea. prospectors said in a television.

their six hostages were for the Texas-based 1 Co.

began negotiations with the guerrillas to secure the hostages and sent to pick them up on the second helicopter into guerrilla hands.

## Whitlam says voting m will be changed

Correspondent June 12.—Mr. Whitlam, the Prime Minister, said legislation is being introduced to provide for optional voting to replace compulsory pre-system. The voter to fill in only as res on the ballot were seats to be at past the post.

not be appropriate a, Mr Whitlam said, of the optional system had been sary by the extraneous circumstances which d counting of the cion votes on May a had the most tem of voting in the am announced that sarmmental advisory s to be appointed to

investigate all foreign investment proposals.

Explaining the new economic responsibilities of Dr. Jim Cairns, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam said he would have authority over the Priorities Review Staff which makes regular strategic reviews of Government programmes. Dr Cairns would be able to order special inquiries into any area of expenditure. He would also control the new Adjustment Assistance Agency which would distribute Government money to firms affected by structural changes in the economy.

Dr Cairns would remain as Minister for Overseas Trade, but Mr Whitlam himself would retain control over the Industries Assistance Commission for some time.

Mr Whitlam said he had agreed that the Priorities Review Staff could be made Dr Cairns' responsibility because this would enable him to be concerned with the Government's expenditure priorities.

## ralian envoy snubbed hinese officials

Bonavia June 12.—The Australian Foreign Ministry tonight snubbed Dr. Gerald, the Australian Ambassador, and three Australian correspondents to turn up at a to which they were

als, members of the information department of what they anti-Chinese come Australian press action is also be related to the showing on Australian of the document China made by a Antonioni in bitterly denounced igatory in the coun

raid today his head of the information th was not aimed at an Government.

Sydney, June 12.—The Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) will show the controversial documentary despite warnings from Mr Wang Kuochuan, the Chinese Ambassador, that the friendship between Australia and China could be harmed if it is shown.

An ABC spokesman said today that the film China would be shown on July 1, and he did not foresee any change in this arrangement.

Mr Wang, who has appealed to Mr Douglas McClelland, the Australian Media Minister, to ban the documentary, said: "The film tries very hard to smear China, slander our leaders and insult the Chinese people."

"We detest it very much and it is shown it will be harmful to understanding and friendship between our two peoples,"—Reuters.

## Seventy nations take part in a 100-day scrutiny of the world's 'heat engine'

## Huge weather watch begins this weekend

From Alan McGregor Geneva, June 12.

A big effort to fill in some of the gaps in weather forecasting begins on Saturday, with some 70 nations participating.

It is the Atlantic tropical experiment of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. The experiment is known for short as GATE. The weather and associated phenomena over a third of the Earth's tropical belt, including a large area of the Atlantic Ocean, will be kept under close observation for a period of 100 days.

About 40 ships—described as the largest international fleet ever assembled for peaceful purposes—13 instrumented research aircraft, an advance geostationary satellite of the United States and several polar orbiting satellites from the Soviet Union and the United States comprise the basic equipment. The operations control centre is at Dakar airport.

The tropical area has been selected because of the location there of the "heat engine" that drives the world's weather, most of the heat received from the sun being stored in the upper layers of the tropical oceans.

From there, it is transferred to the atmosphere largely by evaporation of water and then transported upward by vertical air currents in convective cloud systems.

The purpose of GATE is to investigate this complex tropical mechanism, at present insufficiently understood, and so open the way to more accurate longer-range weather prediction.

Dr Basile J. Mason, director-general of the British Meteorological Office, said at a press conference yesterday that at present services such as those in the United States and Britain were forecasting weather up to three days ahead for the whole of the northern hemisphere.

"We think that if we want to do five or seven days ahead, we shall have to forecast for the whole of the globe, including the tropical regions," he said.

These are particularly important, because the big thunderstorm systems in the tropics pump vast quantities of heat and moisture from the tropics up into the atmosphere and towards the poles, and we believe that this is such an important mechanism that unless we take this fully into account, we shall not be able to forecast the weather, even for temperate latitudes, more than a few days ahead."

## US offers to mediate in the Aegean

Istanbul, June 12.—The American ambassador told Mr. Tuzan, the Turkish Foreign Minister, that the United States was ready to mediate in the Greek-Turkish quarrel over their territorial water limits, the mass circulation. Hürriyet reported today.

The newspaper added that in another meeting the Soviet ambassador told the Foreign Minister that, while the Soviet Union was in favour of territorial waters being fixed at 12 nautical miles, it wanted to see the difference between the two countries settled peacefully. He also emphasized that there should be no threat to free navigation in the territorial waters.

The independent Cumhuriyet reported that the United States ambassador had expressed to the Foreign Minister the concern of the United States Congress over Turkey's intention of again authorizing the cultivation of opium poppies.

Mr. Gunes replied that the Turkish Government was studying the question and that if resumption of poppy growing was authorized an efficient control system would be established.—Agence France Presse.

## Solzhenitsyn accuses apologists of 'red terror'

Paris, June 12.—In the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago*, the exiled Soviet author, accuses Bertrand Russell of having acted as an apologist for Soviet slave labour camps.

The 700-page indictment of the slave labour system was published in Russian here today by YMCA Press. In the book Mr Solzhenitsyn says that both the philosopher and Dr. Hewlett Johnson, the "Red dean" of Canterbury, must have had some knowledge of the sufferings of slave labourers when they publicly defended the Soviet system.

The volume published today includes the third and fourth parts of Mr Solzhenitsyn's seven-part work on Soviet prisons. He decided to publish *The Gulag Archipelago* last year when a Leningrad woman hanged herself after being forced to tell Soviet secret police where a copy of the manuscript was hidden.

As in the first volume, the author blames Lenin for starting both the terror and slave labour. The first decision to create the "archipelago" of concentration camps was made on July 23, 1918, he writes.

A September, 1918, "decree on red terror" for which Lenin was also responsible, according to Mr Solzhenitsyn, ordered officials to "guarantee the Soviet republic against class enemies by isolating them in concentration camps"—Agence France-Presse.

## Huge hunt for killers of police chief

From Our Correspondent Kuala Lumpur, June 12

The police today distributed likenesses drawn from witnesses' descriptions of the two young men who murdered Mr Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Bin Hashim, the Inspector General of Police, last Friday. The drawings show that one killer was probably Chinese and the other probably Malay.

If the drawings are accurate and if the killers are still in Malaysia, it seems they must be caught in the biggest manhunt in Malaysia's history.

A reward of more than £40,000 has been offered for information leading to their arrest. Almost the entire police force has been alerted and hundreds of people have been questioned.

The police believe they have found the car the killers used and the shirts they wore, one yellow and one blue. Mr Mohamed Haniff Bin Omar, who is acting as inspector general, said: "We also want to get the men behind the birthing of these killers."

Their task would be easier if they knew the reason for the murder. Although the Malaysian Communist Party is blamed by many, it has not mentioned the killing in its clandestine pamphlets or radio broadcasts. In the past the communists have

contrived to make propaganda out of every incident in which they have been involved.

Secret societies, Malaysia's most important criminal organizations, present a similar puzzle, because traditionally they are most careful to avoid clashing with the police. Now their members are under persistent scrutiny and questioning.

Possible persons and professional grudges against the inspector general are being investigated. He recently received two letters threatening his life.

Although his death must have caused many prominent Malaysians to fear for their safety, public life appears to be unaffected. No extra guards have been assigned to leading politicians.

"How could we work if we were surrounded by guards and bullet-proof glass?" one minister asked today. "Besides, an election is coming, and we have to keep in touch with the people."

The inspector general was not armed and his car had no police escort. Mr Mohamed Haniff Bin Omar said the inspector general felt he had to set an example, by risking his own life, to the men he sent on dangerous missions.

## Envoy's attacker jailed

Bangkok, June 12.—A Thai man has been sentenced to 33 years imprisonment for attempting to rob and murder a British diplomat, Mr Christopher Hulse, last September.

## Filipino troops kill guerrilla chief

Manila, June 12.—Mr Felix Salac, known as Commander Pelaez, the supreme Huk guerrilla leader, has been killed in an armed clash with government troops in Abucay.

# Why you lose your temper while driving.

Most cars won't push up your blood pressure on an easy, uncluttered stretch of motorway.

It's when you're driving in heavy traffic that stress builds up.

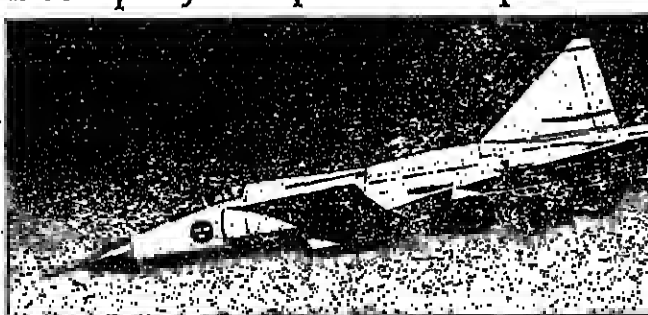
Other cars changing lanes, decisions at traffic lights and zebra crossings, the mad scramble at roundabouts, all contribute. Many drivers are also inwardly apprehensive about the safety of their cars.

So tempers build up, blood pressures rise, hearts beat faster, drivers swear.

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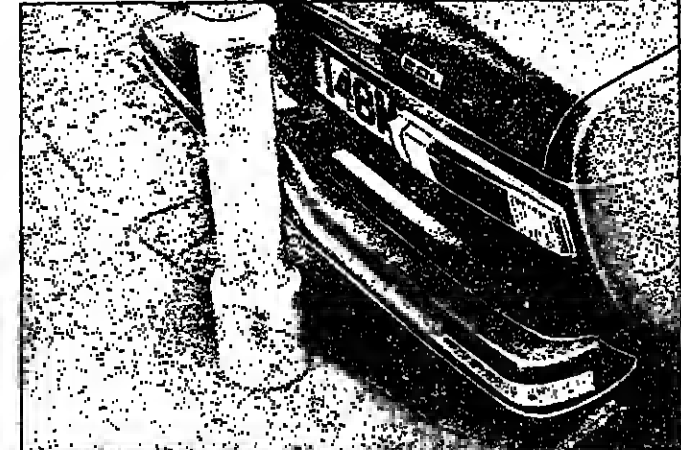
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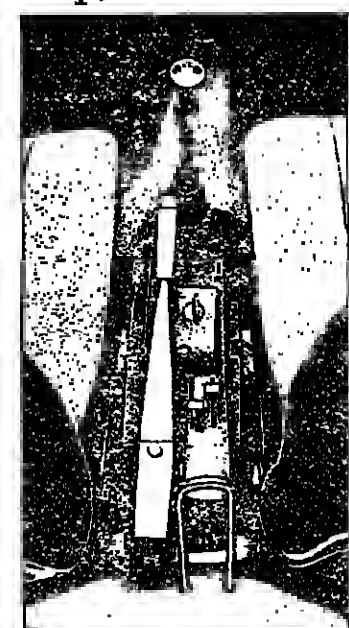
aircraft. To quote *Drive* magazine (Spring 1974): "...a very sweet-running front wheel drive unit that starts easily, idles faultlessly and, in top gear, pulls away effortlessly at low speeds."

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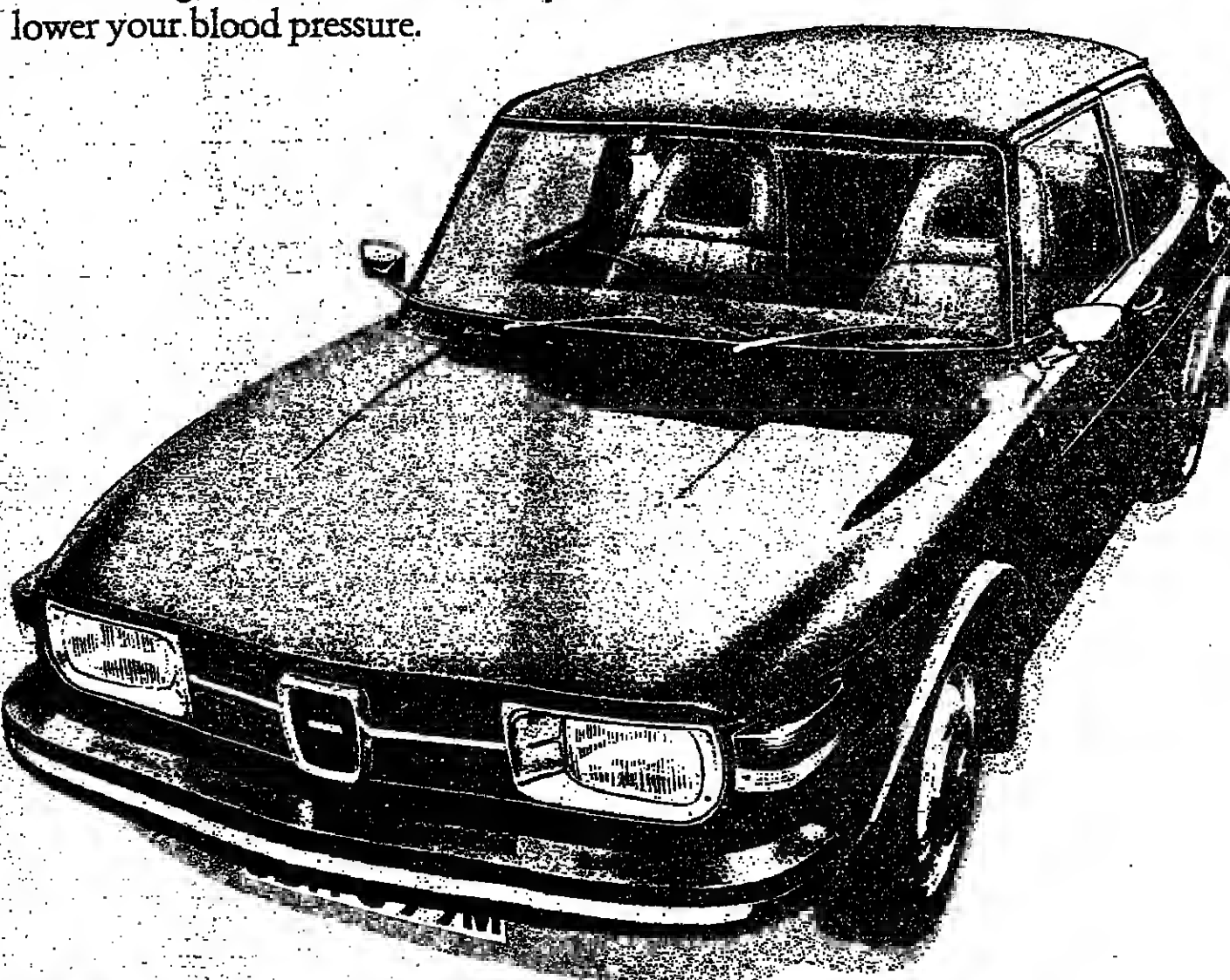
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Go swift. Go safe. Go Saab.

\*Swedish Motor Vehicle Inspection Authority: annual report 1973.



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Recommended retail prices ex-works including VAT, car tax and safety belts.



















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Director will carry out his responsibilities under the general direction of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor, and Principal and the school's Board of Management, of which he will be a member.

The establishment of the school follows the recognition by the Australian Government of a need for facilities of the highest quality for postgraduate management education. The provision of funds for that purpose. The new school is planned to be a centre of excellence which will be influential in raising the level of higher management education throughout Australia.

University expects the Director to be active in the promotion of the school and development of its relationships with business and the community at large, as well as in the formulation and implementation of plans and programmes for management education which are relevant to Australian requirements and comparable with the best international standards.

Director will be appointed as a professor in an appropriate field and in this capacity will be expected to promote and engage in advanced study and research and to advise and participate in the teaching and examining of students.

Appointment as professor will be in accordance with the normal terms and conditions of appointment for professors in the University. The appointment as Director will be for a period of five years.

Estimated emoluments for this position will be in the order of \$28,000 per annum (approximately £18,600) comprising the current professorial salary of \$19,614, a normal loading of up to \$2,000 per annum and an entertainment allowance of \$5,000 per annum, together with a directorial allowance of \$5,000 per annum and an annual allowance of \$1,200 per annum.

University reserves the right to fill any position by invitation.

For appointment, including superannuation, study leave and housing scheme, see obtained from the Secretary-General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (Apsu), 35 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PF. Other enquiries may be sent to the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Rupert Myers, P.O. Box 1, Kensington, New South Wales 2032, Australia. Applications close in Australia and on 30th June, 1974.

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The COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES wishes to recruit, by way of open competition, candidates suitable for the above positions for its services in BRUSSELS and LUXEMBOURG. The work involves the translation of texts of a legal, economic, administrative and technical nature.

Candidates must:

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The minimum net starting salary is £300 per month.

Full details and the OBLIGATORY OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM are contained in the Official Journal of the European Communities No. C87 dated 10th June 1974 which can be obtained from any of the following addresses:

HM Stationery Office, PO Box 669, LONDON SE1 Please give number of the journal. (at a price of 21p.)

EEC Information Office, 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, LONDON W8 4QQ.

Commission of the European Communities, Recruiting, Appointments, Promotions Division, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications 18th July 1974.

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The staff department is small and other duties and responsibilities must be accepted.

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Arlary House,  
Arlary Row, Westminster, London SW1P 1RX  
Tel. 01-222 7755

### Head Office

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An opportunity exists to join a team of property lawyers within the Legal Services department of British Steel Corporation based in Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

We are seeking two candidates, aged about 25, who have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Institute of Legal Executives and have about five years experience in private practice, industry or Local Government.

The successful candidates will at first be involved mainly in assisting the property lawyers. However, they will be expected and encouraged to participate in the varied work of the Property Section so that they can gain the necessary experience to play their full part as members of the team. Salary will be by arrangement in accordance with age and experience.

We are looking for candidates with enthusiasm and resourcefulness who wish to make a worthwhile career in industry.

Applicants should write, quoting reference H097, to:  
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BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION,  
P.O. Box No. 403,  
Grosvenor Place,  
London, SW1X 7JG



## Assistant Accountant

£2,978/£3,693 p.a.

Plus Watford Allowance £54 p.a.

The British Waterways Board has a vacancy for an Assistant Accountant based at Watford, to assist in the preparation of budgets and the distribution of financial and statistical information to management. Candidates should be professionally qualified and have experience of computer based accounting systems. Good conditions of service, including contributory pension scheme (interchange arrangements available) and luncheon facilities.

Apply in writing, giving age and details of experience to the Senior Personnel Officer, British Waterways Board, "Willow Grange", Church Road, Watford, WD1 3QA, quoting reference 33-57.

## PRODUCTION MANAGER

Octopus Books, an international company specialising in high quality illustrated book publishing, requires an experienced Production Manager. Applicants will have already acquired experience of colour litho book production in this country and overseas. He or she will need an equitable disposition and a sound knowledge of all aspects of book production, from drafting the specification to ensuring delivery to an exacting schedule. Knowledge of the main European languages would be an asset. Salary will be in the region of £4,000 p.a. and there are attractive fringe benefits. (Ref. JM)

Applications should be made in writing, quoting the above reference and addressed to:

Octopus  
The Publishing Director  
Octopus Books Limited  
c/o 64 Old Church St. London S.W.3

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have a vacancy on the Merchandise Team for a Buyer. This appointment would carry responsibility for buying specialist and high quality merchandise for the Men's Gift Department. Some experience of this type of work would be an advantage.

Application, detailing age, education and experience, in writing, to:

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203 Piccadilly, London W1A 2AS.

## THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL Environmental Department

Thanet District Council (population 116,000) is an amalgamation of the existing authorities of Broadstairs, Margate and Ramsgate, together with some part of East Kent. There are good facilities for education, housing, sport and sailing, etc. within the area.

Applications are invited for the following posts in the Legal Division of the Environmental Department:—

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(Posts Nos. 5.26 and 5.27) PO1 (6-10)

(£4,104-£4,611)

Preference will be given to applicants with sound local government experience and capable of undertaking with the minimum of supervision a wide range of legal work, including advocacy. The duties of the posts include attendance at Committees and assisting in the supervision of unadmitted legal staff. Recently qualified applicants considered.

### LEGAL ASSISTANT

(Post No. 5.34) (AP 4/5 £2,235-£2,820)

The post involves mainly conveyancing and allied work including mortgages and the preparation of contracts. Applicants should have had several years' experience of this type of work and be capable of working with limited supervision. Experience in the procedures involved in the preparation of planning appeals will be an advantage.

A casual user car allowance is payable in respect of the above posts. Housing need considered and 100% mortgage are available. Generous removal expenses, lodging allowance and settlement allowance are payable.

Applications giving full personal details, qualifications, experience, previous and present appointments and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the PERSONNEL OFFICER at the address below by 28th June, 1974.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Staff Commission and other things being equal preference will be given to serving Local Government Officers affected by reorganisation.

L. G. Gill, Chief Executive  
Council Offices, P.O. Box 9, Margate CT9 1UP.

## CET

Council for Educational Technology  
for the United Kingdom

Applications are invited for the post of:

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (INFORMATION)

A major part of the Council's work is concerned with information: obtaining information about the needs of various educational sectors; obtaining and providing information about the use of educational technology; providing information about the Council's policies and activities. Within the policy decisions taken by the Council, the Administrative Officer (Information) will be responsible for all detailed action in this area of the Council's work.

Applicants will need a good understanding of the structure and operation of the education and training system, a mind which is open to new opportunities, the ability to write clear and concise English, and proven administrative skill.

Salary scale £3,315-£3,884.

A full job description will be sent on request.

Applications should be sent in writing (no form) to:  
The Office Manager,  
Council for Educational Technology,  
160 Great Portland Street,  
London W1N 6TB,  
as soon as possible.



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Senior position offered with high salary, assisted passage, settling-in loan, service bonus after qualifying period and unequalled growth possibilities. The position is wide open for innovation and initiative on the ground floor of a new association company in a fast expanding group of companies. Duties include product development, manufacture and marketing of light weight building product based on perlite and expanded clay aggregates produced from the company's own deposits. The company is erecting a plant to progressively manufacture various grades of light weight aggregates, insulating boards and materials, ceiling tiles and systems, fire proofing plaster and boards and roofing plank.

These will be followed by modular light weight industrialized building components and units. Applicants must have a very decided practical bent and adequate experience befitting this position. Apply in writing only to: Pralaya Partha Manufacturing Company, P.O. Box 55, Kenmare 1745, Transvaal, South Africa, stating age, marital status, number of children and ages, full details of qualifications, experience and present salary. Also state a telephone number at which you can be contacted to arrange an interview with Mr. Botham who will be visiting the U.K. shortly.

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(W. H. Smith/Doubleday)

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The Editor-in-Chief is looking for someone to give administrative and editorial assistance in running Literary Guild and other BCA enterprises. Must have publishing experience, a strong commercial sense for what will sell in both clubs, and administrative ability. Good salary and excellent prospects.

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Mrs. Jean Goehr, Editor-in-Chief

BODK CLUB ASSOCIATES

16 Mortimer Street, London W1M 8QX

(marked "Personal")

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Under £1000	A
£1000-£1499	B
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2. After 4 years and a promotion, a salary of:

£2000-£2499	A
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3. After a 2nd promotion, rising in your mid 30s to:

Under £3500	A
£3500-£4500	B
Over £4500	C

4. Further promotion prospects to:

£4500-£5000	A
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5. Pension:

No pension	A
Defective pension	B
Adequate pension	C

6. Maximum holiday entitlement:

3 weeks	A
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5 weeks	C

Now check the answers. If you have ticked answer C to all six questions you are probably a young Executive Officer working in a Central London Headquarters Office in today's Civil Service. If you haven't ticked C to all the questions, have 2 A's and 3 B's and are under 28, perhaps you should seriously consider becoming one. Send now for full details of qualifications and application form to: Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB quoting reference E/638/70/8

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Applications are invited for a permanent and pensionable post in the Crop and Animal Husbandry Division, Northern Ireland.

The successful applicant will undertake work on pig production with special reference to increased efficiency, and will be required to undertake teaching duties in the Faculty of Agriculture, Queen's University, Belfast.

Appointments to the post may be at Senior Scientific Officer, Higher Scientific Officer or Scientific Officer level, the qualifications for which are:

SSO—Over 25 and under 32 years of age with a 1st or 2nd Class Honours Degree in Agriculture and at least 4 years' post-graduate experience, preferably in relation to pig production.

HSO—Under 30 years of age with an Honours Degree as above and at least 2 years' relevant post-graduate experience.

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Grading and commencing salary will be related to qualifications and experience on the following scales:

SSO—£2,798-£3,895

HSO—£2,221-£2,834

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Please write or telephone for an application form and further information, quoting Ref. SB 135/74/TT to the Civil Service Commission, Clarendon House, Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8ND (telephone 0232-44300, ext. 28). Completed forms must be returned to arrive not later than 24th June, 1974.

NORTHERN IRELAND  
CIVIL SERVICE

## WEST MIDLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL County Secretary's Department

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(Salary up to £3,729)

Applicants should have wide experience of Conveyancing and associated law and practice and preferably be Fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives. The duties of the post will involve supervision of the Authority's conveyancing staff and personal attention to the more complicated transactions.

This is a progressive Authority and men and women in private practice are invited to apply.

The County operates a scheme whereby in approved cases removal and legal expenses up to a maximum of £850 may be payable together with (where applicable) a temporary allowance in respect of lodging and travelling expenses for a period not exceeding three months.

This advertisement appears after consultation with the Local Government Staff Commission, and is not restricted to serving Local Government Officers.

Application forms for the above post may be obtained from the County Personnel Officer, West Midlands County Council, 18 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3TP, telephone 021-238 9750 to where they should be returned by 30 July.

## UNIVERSITY OF EXETER COMPUTER UNIT

### USER SERVICES MANAGER

Applications are invited for the post of User Services Manager. The person appointed will be responsible to the Computer Manager for all aspects of the service provided to users of the University computer.

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The appointment will be made at a point on the salary scale £1,929-£4,548 (under review).

Applications and requests for further particulars should be sent to:  
The Secretary of the University, Northcote House, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ, Devon, not later than 22nd June, 1974. Please quote Reference No. 1/5/3088 in all correspondence.



## Ronald Butt Pointing the Middle Way to economic stability

Back bench MPs contribute a great deal more to the evolution of political thinking than is commonly supposed, and their role is particularly important at a time like the present when the nation is up against the railings. For the most part, of course, MPs play their part in this political process in a private way, each contributing ideas that interact with others and so help to move political thinking forward.

Sometimes, however, a back-bencher has a public contribution of real significance to make, which may, unfortunately, be lost sight of in the plethora of political speech-making that goes on. Such a speech was made to his constituents in Horn-castle last week by the Conservative member Mr. Peter Tappell, and since it was generally unnoticed, I propose to draw attention to it now.

First, however, it is perhaps worthwhile to set the scene in respect of the general arguments now going on about economic management. While Mr. Foot tries to talk moderation out of the unions in exchange for Labour's "social contract", Mr. Benn is single-mindedly aiming at an unprecedented attempt to achieve state and union control over private industry. This now appears to be causing Mr. Wilson some embarrassment; nevertheless, Mr. Benn is backed by Mr. Len Murray and if their joint ideas for union control over individual boardrooms are ever realized, the result could be a degree of industrial chaos that could only in the end be overcome if the unions themselves can understand some kind of (left-wing) political direction that would be inimical to the tradition of free bargaining.

In a sense, however, Mr. Benn's prescription is a recognition of the facts of union power and on this matter the Conservatives, officially, stand roughly where they were at the end of Mr. Heath's Government. They dislike intensely what Mr. Benn is proposing but so far have tended to rely on anti-nationalization slogans and on their own, while often seeming to exude the vague sentiment that perhaps the way forward for the Tories is to be found by first cautiously retracing steps to the outward-out free-market approach that was associated with Selsdon Park.

On the Tory back benches it is certainly the "free market" group of MPs (notably Mr. John Birt, Mr. Nicholas Ridley) who are making the intellectual running against the old and unconvincing line of an incomes policy in place of adequate monetary control and who react to Mr. Benn's interventionism by denying the case for any government intervention at all.

To complete the scene-setting, there are a number of industrialists who are dismayed by Mr. Benn but who acknowledge that a relationship between the state and industry is here to stay; who recognize the shift in the balance of power towards the unions but who do not want to lead either to Mr. Benn's solution or to a confrontation as it did under the Conservatives. It is in this setting of the Conservative dilemma that Mr. Tappell's speech is worth attention for it is essentially a reasoned argument for a new and realistic Tory Middle Way.

The national dilemma and the Conservatives' failure after 1970 did not wholly, he argues, arise from either the understanding of trade union strength nor from the adverse movement in the terms of trade, though these are part of the explanation. The deeper reason, Mr. Tappell argues, is that both the Labour policy of nationalization and the Conservative policy of free enterprise are out of date. Having attacked the dogma of nationalization on more or less conventional lines, Mr. Tappell turns his attention to the Tory riposte of "more free enterprise", pointing out that a faith in the unexamined exercise of the law of supply and demand is seldom believed by those with experience in industry and the

City, who leave that to the theoreticians. "As a practical concept, 'free enterprise' perished in the second winter of the last administration," observes Mr. Tappell, who then points, quite rightly, to the fact that the Bank of England's Green Paper on Competition and Credit of 1971, and its consequences for Conservative financial policy.

This disastrous document, as Mr. Tappell recalls, led to the collapse in the market for British securities, the demoralization of the discount market, a fall in genuine industrial investment, a huge flow of uncontrolled credit into property speculation, and a forcing up of interest rates with all the impact that has had on house-building and mortgages.

This policy played a major part in the doom of Mr. Heath's government, and I have no doubt that Mr. Tappell is right about the damage done by the former dogmatic refusal to contemplate the physical control of credit. Mr. Tappell then outlines his own suggestion for a Middle Way between "the inertia of nationalization" and "the spirals of unbridled licence" and it is a case that the free market section of his own party, much though there is to be said for their advocacy of effective monetary control and scepticism about incomes policy, has no right to ignore. Citing Germany, France and Japan, he argues that there are in every industrial enterprise four interests to be safeguarded: the efficiency of the project, the benefit of the state, the welfare of the community and the profits of the shareholder.

But in Britain these are left in the hands of only two interested parties, unions and management. The treatment of so-called "unearned" income by labour with the damage it does to savings and investment is a disgrace—but the shareholders, and particularly the big institutions who own the greater part of British equities, also have much to answer for. In Mr. Tappell's opinion, "Under their blim, while often seeming to exude the vague sentiment that perhaps the way forward for the Tories is to be found by first cautiously retracing steps to the outward-out free-market approach that was associated with Selsdon Park."

On the Tory back benches it is certainly the "free market" group of MPs (notably Mr. John Birt, Mr. Nicholas Ridley) who are making the intellectual running against the old and unconvincing line of an incomes policy in place of adequate monetary control and who react to Mr. Benn's interventionism by denying the case for any government intervention at all.

To complete the scene-setting, there are a number of industrialists who are dismayed by Mr. Benn but who acknowledge that a relationship between the state and industry is here to stay; who recognize the shift in the balance of power towards the unions but who do not want to lead either to Mr. Benn's solution or to a confrontation as it did under the Conservatives. It is in this setting of the Conservative dilemma that Mr. Tappell's speech is worth attention for it is essentially a reasoned argument for a new and realistic Tory Middle Way.

The national dilemma and the Conservatives' failure after 1970 did not wholly, he argues, arise from either the understanding of trade union strength nor from the adverse movement in the terms of trade, though these are part of the explanation. The deeper reason, Mr. Tappell argues, is that both the Labour policy of nationalization and the Conservative policy of free enterprise are out of date. Having attacked the dogma of nationalization on more or less conventional lines, Mr. Tappell turns his attention to the Tory riposte of "more free enterprise", pointing out that a faith in the unexamined exercise of the law of supply and demand is seldom believed by those with experience in industry and the

## How long will the Russians allow it to stay all quiet on the eastern front?

Between them, the Russians and the Chinese have set the world a profound riddle. The actions taken by both countries point clearly to preparations for war, and recent developments have been so clearly ominous as to convince many in the West that a Soviet assault on China is imminent. But the attitudes expressed in both Moscow and Peking point the other way. The Russians pooh-pooh the thought that they might attack China; and the Chinese warn the West that Russian military pressure on China is part of the basic "feint in the east attack in the west"—that the Soviet Union presents a more immediate threat to Western Europe than it does to China.

One undeniable element in the strategic position is that if war breaks out between Russia and China it will be because of a decision in Moscow. China lacks the means for offensive war on the Soviet Union, while the Soviet Union has only the means to mount a fearfully destructive attack on China, but also has deployed them as if ready for just such an attack. The Soviet military build-up on China's borders, especially in the north-east, began in the late 1960s. From 16 divisions, maintained at not much more than garrison status, Red Army strength was built up to 21 in 1969 and those units under a new command organization (and a rocket-trained general) were at a high level of combat readiness. At that period the Chinese had about 32 divisions facing this border sector but deep inside China.

The winter of 1968-9 saw the Russians exerting their military power on China to assert the Soviet claim to sovereignty over the full breadth of the border areas, including all their islands (the Chinese claim equal rights on the rivers). In March 1969 the Russians attempted to drive a Chinese frontier guard patrol off the Ussuri Island of Chempao (or Damansky), the Chinese refused, and on the consequent fierce platoon-scale action.

Two weeks later the Russians tried again, in brigades strength, with armour and artillery; the Chinese, prepared for this, refused to give ground. The result was that the Russians had to retreat, beat the Russians back and held the island. (Russians still deny that Chempao is under Chinese control; last summer I spent an hour or so on the island and saw the Chinese and Russian troops and their equipment.)

The shooting crisis passed with a summit meeting between Mr. Kossygin and Mr. Zhou Enlai. That led to a slow and wary relaxation on the actual borders,

and in the resumption of negotiations in Peking—but those soon deadlocked.

The borders stayed quiet. But there was no relaxation in the level of hostility between Peking and Moscow; and President Nixon's China visit made concrete the Soviet nightmare of a two-front threat, giving a strategic dimension to the live Soviet apprehension of a revanchist China one day rising again in the east—the old, ugly and irrational but driving fear of "the yellow peril".

The Soviet military build-up continued and multiplied. Approximate numbers achieved by 1971 were: 30 divisions each. In 1972 the Russians had 44 divisions to China's 40; last year it was 45 for both sides.

Now Western estimates put Soviet strength on China's north-east borders and in Mongolia at least 50 divisions—some American sources put it at nearly 60. These units are combat-ready; and they are deployed in positions to launch a multi-pronged invasion of China, following the broad sweep of the Red Army took over the area from the Japanese in 1945. The troops are supported by a close network of supply bases, linked now by good roads. There are about 700 miles of military airfields, almost all new, and "hardened" launch sites for tactical and intermediate range missiles.

While thus brandishing a very big stick the Russians are also speaking softly. The contrast with 1969 is striking. Then the Russians were openly threatening China, and in and out of the press were saying that they were seeking advance approval, or at least understanding, from other communist parties for a pre-emptive attack to incapacitate China, which the Russians presented as a necessary and just measure to ensure world peace, and the Soviet Government even put out feelers to the same effect to Washington (President Nixon rebuffed them).

Now, no official Russian will entertain the thought of a Soviet attack on China. Those who bring up the subject are told that nothing is further from reality than possibility of any such attack, that the Chinese have no valid ground for apprehension, and that they have fabricated an imaginary Soviet threat as a ploy in their internal "power struggle".

China's initial reactions to the Soviet military threat took that with full seriousness. Beginning in 1963, strong reinforcement and massive redeployment of the People's Liberation Army brought that into positions to



Moscow 1969: Russians protest outside the Chinese embassy against the border incident.

meet a Soviet invasion. The frontier regions of the north-east which I toured last summer showed no signs of a substantial military presence, nothing beyond the thinly spread and lightly armed troops of the PLA field armies are believed to be deployed in depth, and especially near that narrow and critical zone, only 400 miles deep, between Peking and the Mongolian People's Republic. The PLA field armies are believed to be deployed in depth, and especially near that narrow and critical zone, only 400 miles deep, between Peking and the Mongolian People's Republic.

But throughout China, and especially in frontier regions, there have been and are intensive preparations for war. "People's war" is the heart of which is "Juring the enemy in deep" by abandoning territory. Militia training is at high level. On the frontiers members keep their weapons at home (in 1965 they were taking them to work, to be informed if it followed a period in which Moscow had been making what appeared as reasonable, compromise gestures—such as the offer, just made, to grant the Chinese access to Soviet warheads).

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man Mao's intention, "be prepared for war or natural catastrophe, dig deep, store grain".

But, again, current Chinese discussion of their confrontation with the Soviet Union points away from the danger of Soviet attack. A long-term menace is recognized; but the Chinese are persistent in arguing to westerners that the prime and immediate Soviet threat is towards Western Europe.

So, there is the riddle. Active preparations for war on both sides, but both sides playing down the danger of war. One school of western observers, for whom actions still speak louder than words, a Soviet attack on China is a real and imminent probability.

This school of observers has two basic scenarios for a Russian attack. One is for a nuclear blow aimed at China's own nuclear missiles and installations, and probably at her major industrial centres. Against that option is weighed the danger to the Soviet Union of a Chinese nuclear counter-blow getting through, which some believe is already too high a risk for Moscow to count as acceptable. Beyond that, nuclear destruction could kill millions in China through fall-out, and perhaps many outside China too; it would universally be seen as a terrible international crime—there would still most probably begin a war, not end it.

The second scenario is for conventional military action, launched under threat that any move by China to activate her own nuclear weapons would lead to instant firing of Soviet missiles in an all-out blow to achieve the annihilation of China as a modern state. Under that threat, the Red Army would thrust into China's north-east and towards Peking, joining up with the "beast-heads" well in the interior. The initial aim would be to take a strategic hold around China's industrial heartland, from which to call for parity with Chinese leaders "people's war" than the present one.

Any Soviet attack would most likely be preceded by an incident on the borders, to be cited as evidence that China had provoked war. And this would be a real and credible if it followed a period in which Moscow had been making what appeared as reasonable, compromise gestures—such as the offer, just made, to grant the Chinese access to Soviet warheads.

China's initial reactions to the Soviet military threat took that with full seriousness. Beginning in 1963, strong reinforcement and massive redeployment of the People's Liberation Army brought that into positions to

party which so clearly appeared to be in the ascendancy in 1969 was not in fact overcome by more cautious civilian counsels, but decided that far greater military strength than it then had ready would be needed to finish off China with dispatch, and a minimum of risk. It was the Soviet Union still had a few years before China's nuclear capacity reached the level at which it became an absolute deterrent; and that the time could be used to build up the overwhelming weight of troops and weaponry needed to repeat the Red Army's classic 1945 operation in current conditions. In this hypothesis, the time for action would be very near, and the eclipse of American strategic decisiveness in Washington's long Washington summer and autumn could be an added inducement.

There are signs, too, that whatever the Russians say publicly, privately they are telling their closest friends that they are not so sure of the Soviet Union's ability to contain the Chinese. China's provocations have exceeded the limit, and that there should be no surprise—still less, of course, disapproval—if the Soviet Union finally lashed out to strike a blow for world peace.

But what of the Chinese attitude? They can point to the fact that the Soviet Far East deployments have not been reflected in reductions of troops forces in Eastern Europe; quite the contrary in fact, a strengthened grip in Eastern Europe would also fit, indeed be mandatory, if the Soviet Union is preparing for war in the east.

It was clear in Peking last summer that the Chinese leadership believed that their country was prepared already for the worst, and did not feel daunted by the Soviet threat. If, as seems the case, the American administration would view a Soviet attack on China as a major national interest, it only because of the vastness and unpredictability of the consequences, it would follow that the Chinese have been assured that they would be fully informed if American satellite intelligence reports that the Red Army is moving to attack. That would deny the Russians surprise, at least.

Whatever the explanation for the Chinese belief, which seems to understate the significance of the aggressive deployment of their hostile neighbour's strike armies, it must surely be assumed that it does not reflect any dropping of their guard. The Chinese have a long history for his lack of vigilance before the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

Neville Maxwell

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## Italian lesson for Europe

Rome, June 12

The western world has dimly grasped the fact that Italy is a threat to itself for all, and this real is the essential element of the Italian crisis. For good what the Italians do it is immense and lasting effect. This is the only one looks at classical Rome medieval papacy, the 19th century, fascism and now, fascism's effects are far exceeded, the threatened rupture of the consumer so.

The tragedy of a political collapse in the month or so would not, the annulling of the European Community and the of the first genuine disintegration of the European Community.

The Italian political over the years has been steadily criticised for centredness, for looking at the image of a country remarkable transformation at its own image in the event of collapse, the crisis would be open defenceless before the onslaught of having Italy suffering, people require of having failed once as understand the effects of a nation on the rest of the world, to which belongs.

This is why it is well as wrong to portend: as gaily as downhill or walking with great ship sinks. The Italian has found in the past five years. Careless abandon is also most distant attitude of the Italian temperance the politicians themselves them justice, have in cases shown lately a sense of the reality of the Italian situation.

But having created a over a period of a quarter century based on apolitical and social union either from an effective or from public opinion, the Italian has found in the past five years. Careless abandon is also most distant attitude of the Italian temperance the politicians themselves them justice, have in cases shown lately a sense of the reality of the Italian situation.

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## Need to protect lone mothers from welfare bullying

The report of the Finer Committee on One Parent Families is now imminent after probably the longest gestation period of any similar Government inquiry. It was set up 5½ years ago in response to growing concern about the poverty in which many separated and divorced wives and unmarried mothers were being forced to bring up their children.

In the interim, nearly 50,000 more fatherless families have been added to the numbers dependent on supplementary benefits, bringing the total to about 270,000 mothers caring for 500,000 children. It is small comfort to them to know that the Finer Committee accepted the need for a representative family allowance about three years ago and that it is now Labour party policy.

There are two basic arguments for such an allowance: It would give mothers a real choice of work and caring for their children full-time, and it would remove their dependence on supplementary benefits. The two points are closely linked. Claimants can earn only £2 a week before their supplementary benefits are reduced pound for pound. But many single mothers want to come off supplement-

ary benefits for more basic reasons. They find it difficult to live on what is supposed to be a temporary subsistence allowance and claiming it can involve considerable humiliation and harassment.

First brushes with the social security system hardly accord with the published aims of the Department of Health and Social Security to meet a woman's financial needs first and then find the "little relative"—the father of the child or children. But a new report claims today that they are not untypical and flow directly from the conflicting duties of social security staff to help single mothers while protecting the public purse and guarding against abuse.

Early evidence to the Finer Committee alleged that social security officers often bullied unmarried mothers who got to court to seek affiliation orders or deserted wives to seek maintenance orders. Lord Collyer, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, was told that these reports that he made it known through *The Times* that these methods were against the specific instructions to officers in dealing with single mothers.

But the report (*Social Insecurity: Single Mothers on Benefit*, by Jane Stothers and Stuart Weir; Child Poverty Action Group, 45p) says such practices still go on. The report covers the experiences of 40 single mothers who applied for benefit at more than 20 different social security offices in 15 different places. The 40 women are not typical in that they are in the minority of those seeking help from the various welfare agencies. Mr. Weir believes that the majority meet similar initial experiences but give in.

Allison Chaplin, 17 (like all the other names in the report, a pseudonym) went without benefit for her baby for 11 months because she refused to name the father. She says she was told that unless she signed a statement saying that she would not claim for the baby, she would not get any benefit for herself. She was visited a second time and asked to name the father. The woman visitor became so abusive, Allison said, that her mother heard the shouting at the gate when she arrived home.

"She told me that the law said someone had to pay for the

baby, if not the father then my parents", Allison said.

She then contacted Gingerbread, the self-help organization for single parent families, and through them contacted the Child Poverty Action Group. As a result, a very able woman called from the social security office.

"It was a complete change of attitude. She said she would give me the allowance for the baby since no one was paying for him. A couple of days later I got back for the full amount but then cheque for nearly £85 arrears."

Allison was luckier than Mrs. James, who had debts and four children to care for. She was told an officer would visit her at home, but nobody came. She called at the office a week later and was again promised a home interview, but still no one arrived. "We had no money at all. We lived on toast for a week and we went without electricity, gas and proper food for two weeks", Mrs. James said.

In desperation she dumped her children in local day care, authority social services department within 24 hours. But her problems were not over. An uncle visited her, and she was

immediately suspected of cohabitation. She was made to agree to "voluntary" deductions from her benefit to save towards a gas bill, but when she claimed shoes for her children she was told it would come out of the voluntary savings. When she took a week's rest because of her ill health, she was told to go to the children's police were called.

The CPAG report says that such experiences are inevitable because the "supplementary benefits" scheme is inappropriate to the needs of single mothers and is run by underpaid and overworked officials who represent the accepted values and prejudices of society. Gingerbread, which is bringing out its own report next week based on letters from single parents, is worried that the bullying and harassment may continue even when a one-parent family allowance is introduced.

"If eligibility depends on a legal status there will be the same tendency to force mothers to go to court to get affiliation, separation or maintenance orders", Janet Hadley of Gingerbread said.

Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

the classic Wombles was last year by a brief prelude who could spot when it hit them between the eyes. They to go into what they call leisure business, and blue as a bunch of plums. They started in a hum—marketing an ordinary range of garden gnomes from latex rubber. By of the year, though, the manufacturing their gnomes and Womble plastic.

Hairy

You need friends to his to get a man as hazy Mountbatten to write word to your book. In Warren Tute he had friend in Henry Manton, Manton has been Tute's hair for 20 years; Mountbatten's for 30.

Tute told Manton that he was if he could get Manton to write a foreword forthcoming book about "Leave it to me", said.

Some months later, a tiny Mountbatten's hair raised the subject of a word. "He got a bit first", Manton reveals. He got hundreds of guests. But he released heard he was mentioned Tute and said he was the foreword as a person.

A car spares shop in displayed the notice PRICE, BIG BORES.

## The Times Diary

### Explaining the mysteries of Go

As though backgammon were not enough, we now have a Sino-Japanese game called Go on our hands. The final of the 1974 British Go championships between Jon Diamond (current British title holder) and Prescott, were held at the Waldorf yesterday. At a luncheon seven devotees watched the game in awe.

Go originated in China some 3,000 years ago and was taken up by the Japanese 1,200 years ago. There are eight million players in Japan and of these some 350 are professionals. A top pro can make £30,000 a year. There are about 2,000 players in this country, though this far no professionals.

Go is a game, my reporter was told, that a person of average intelligence could learn in a quarter of an hour. My reporter studied the rules for a good quarter of an hour and came to the conclusion that he was below average intelligence.

Consider the press release: "The playing surface is crisscrossed with a series of black lines running parallel with each edge which form 361 points of intersection. The two players (one takes black, the other white) make their moves by placing a stone on one of the intersections with the idea of surrounding as much territory as possible. There are 180 white stones and 181 black. Black has the first move."

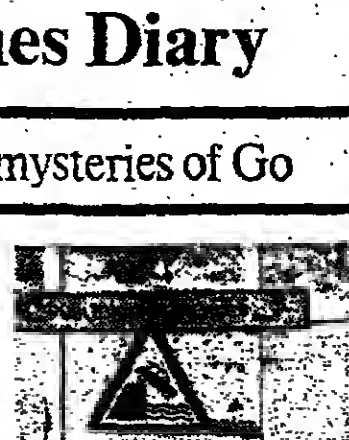
Each player starts with a bowl of stones, which look like large Smarties, and an empty board. They then place stones on the board in order to capture territory. The game takes as much thought as chess—except Bobby Fischer is said to play it—but as

one enthusiast said: "It is not a hero's game like chess; it is a territorial game."

In the Middle Ages, it is said, some Japanese war lords settled their differences not by taking to the sword but by playing Go. It is a slow game, which can take up to six hours.

At 23, Prescott is a post-graduate student at Imperial College, London. He is a mathematician and, he says, a disillusioned chess player. "Go", he said, "appeals much more to the mathematical mind."

Diamond, 26, works for a computer company and has been British Go champion since 1965. He said he found the game simple and profound. He lost.



Two readers sent me photographs of this bewildering board sign at Polperro in Cornwall. This version is from Peter Evans, of Altrincham.

Mensa has a postal address in Wolverhampton. The only hope was to locate Asimov himself, who has taken over in an old-fashioned London hotel that is not the first one to spring to mind as lodging for a far-famed prophet of the distant future. Mensa should have mentioned in their publicity that the Commonwealth Hall is a part of the Royal Commonwealth Society, which has heard about the lecture, but not much.

Carry on

Yesterday's Foyles literary luncheon was intended as a tribute to the survivors of great adventures and adversity. There was even one among the 18

guests of honour who had never written a book about her experiences: Florence Allen, who was awarded the Albert Medal after the Quana disaster of 1935. The most popular people these days are those of small boats on big seas. We had Chay Blyth and John Ridgway, who rowed the Atlantic; Sylvia Cook, who rowed the Pacific; Douglas Robertson, who was upset by killer whales, and Colin and Rosie Sainsbury, who petted the same dangerous mammals and fed them titties. There was also Lady Chichester, whose late husband, as she remarked, seemed to have started something.

Russell Braddon, who was in the chair, took the opportunity to inveigh against what he took to be threats to our national survival. The "incurable optimism and frivolity of the British", he asserted, was about to be overcome because we were "badly and flippanantly so that the country is disintegrating and society is falling to bits, breaking up into small, anxious fragments."

Children were leaving school unable to read and write, fargon was undermining the language, and we blamed the Greeks, Spanish, Rhodesians, South Africans and Chinese while ignoring the fact that we had had similar problems for 250 years in Ulster. All this he blamed on trade union leaders, students and politicians, who were obsessed with power more than survival. He was warmly applauded.

Geoffrey Moorhouse, who rode a camel halfway across the Sahara, said nobody held lectures for people who people who carried on with life at reaching the age of 50.



What you're they said the representative nature of the country.

All good things come to a trend, and the Wombles are no exception. Next month plastic garden Wombles will be available in hardware stores in London, Norwich and Aylesbury. There will not be many at first—there 500 or so—but by the end of the year at least 50,000 plastic Wombles, each good for £55,000, will have been manufactured by a West End company.

The Wombles stand 5½ high, about 5in across and will cost £4.50. If things go according to plan, the Wombles will be in the north-east by Christmas.

The company manufacturing

## Jo goes to Larchmoor

the School founded by the R.N.I.D.—where deaf children who cannot keep pace in ordinary schools for the deaf get that extra touch of individual care.

## Doesn't it make you WANT TO HELP?

And, it isn't only the children! Adolescents, adults and the aged can all look to the R.N.I.D. for help. We have our own Technical Laboratories, the School, a Training Centre in Devon and a Hostel in London; Homes for the elderly deaf; interpreters and social workers; information services; Central Library and many useful publications. Donations and bequests are urgently needed to keep all this essential work going.

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105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH  
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Over Sixty Years of Service to the Deaf





## EACEMAKER IN TROUBLE

sign statements contem-  
possibility that Mr.  
I be impeached they  
themselves with the  
at Dr Kissinger will  
guarantee the con-  
American foreign  
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the Middle East that  
to lasting peace. He  
he has, on occasion,  
essed the tide of his-  
bility to do this with  
is a rare gift among  
It is true that some  
ments look more sub-  
n they may eventually  
The war continues  
limited progress is  
made with the Soviet  
Middle East is still  
and the European re-  
is still bruised. But  
matters are still of  
importance. His skill  
combined with some  
have brought new  
to American policy  
y furthered the in-  
United States and  
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would be far more  
the world than that  
n.  
this lifts him above  
absolves him of the  
to account for his  
He has probably  
own case by reacting

so. Gervely and by threatening  
regimentation before the facts are  
established. He cannot expect  
that he will be immune from the  
sort of questioning to which  
other members of the Administra-  
tion have been subjected. He  
owes it to the importance of his  
office and the hopes which are  
placed on him to go through the  
same mill, however much he may  
hate having to do so.

There are a number of ques-  
tions which require answers. How  
deeply was he involved in the  
decision to tap the telephones of  
officials and journalists in 1969?  
Was the decision justified, and  
were the proper procedures  
observed? Did he tell the truth  
when he was testifying under  
oath to the Senate Foreign Rela-  
tions Committee during his  
confirmation hearings? If not,  
does this make it impossible for  
him to continue as secretary of  
state?

These questions are now to be  
reviewed by the Foreign Rela-  
tions Committee. Until the results  
emerge there are a few points  
that can be made. He was clearly  
justified in trying to stop leaks  
from the White House. Tapping  
the telephones of suspects would  
not necessarily be an illegitimate  
way of trying to do this. But if  
his intelligence were clear there  
would be no need to withhold the  
truth from a closed session of a  
Senate committee. The Senate  
has a right to expect the truth  
in such circumstances, and he  
himself was under oath to provide  
it. If untruth is proven it will  
create a serious problem for Dr  
Kissinger. It is one thing to have  
a reputation for devious diplo-  
macy with foreign governments  
who expect it, and quite another  
to commit perjury before one's  
peers.

But even if perjury were

proven it would not necessarily  
require his resignation. If he  
were prepared to swallow his  
pride and leave the decision to  
the Senate it seems highly  
unlikely that anyone would want  
to push things to that point. His  
achievements are known and  
respected and nobody would  
underestimate the effect that his  
departure would have on Ameri-  
can foreign policy. It may well  
turn out that he was more guilty  
of half-truths than untruths and  
in that case there would be plenty  
of room for compromise.

While the Senate is trying to  
establish the facts the American  
press should keep a sense of  
proportion. Dr Kissinger is  
working very hard to further  
American interests, and he has  
every right to expect some recog-  
nition of this. Yet when he gave  
a press conference on his return  
from the Middle East it became  
an inquisition. The simple fact  
is that the peace of the Middle  
East is more important than the  
tapping of telephones. If this is  
lost sight of the work of Dr  
Kissinger will be even more  
hampered than it already is.

The purging spirit of the  
Watergate inquiries is beneficia-  
l to so far as it establishes that  
members of the government are  
not above the law and that the  
pursuit of legitimate ends does  
not justify illegitimate means.  
But if the search for truth is  
hampered by bloodthirsty in-  
quiries, the opposite effect. This  
is now very obvious. What Dr  
Kissinger is accused of having  
done is not comparable to the  
vast web of malpractice that has  
been exposed by the Watergate  
inquiries. It would be wrong and  
deeply damaging to the United  
States and her allies if a justifi-  
able inquiry became a manhunt.

## RIGHT TO BORROW AGAINST GOLD

ion by the major  
of the International  
fund to support the  
using gold as col-  
loans between central  
timely contribution.  
has risen in the most  
in relation to Italy's  
blem. It would have  
ically impossible for  
its foreign currency  
by much further  
borrowing. The truth  
that of recycling the  
in money according  
ducing countries. No  
offering a consequent  
payments deficit has  
to swamping the  
titutions operating in  
In term of normal  
ence, many of these  
now reached the point  
an no longer increase  
money they have fear  
s in one country.  
free market price of  
standing well above  
nce countries with  
ce of payments prob-  
sequence of the oil  
have been in the  
position of finding  
al gold reserves  
immobilized at a  
keeping valuation of  
nunce. By allowing  
to use gold as a

market related price as collateral  
for loans between each other,  
monetary gold reserves could be  
effectively reallocated.

It does not, however, neces-  
sarily follow from this that  
monetary gold is about to be  
reinstated as a central part of the  
mechanism of the international  
monetary system. This is, both  
in logic and in practice, a differ-  
ent question on which there is  
no sign of early agreement  
between even the leading mem-  
bers of the IMF.

The evidence indeed is that the  
attempts to make the IMF's  
own special drawing right the  
centre of the monetary system.  
As we reported yesterday, the  
IMF's reform Committee of  
Twenty is about publicly to agree  
that this unit, which all others  
should relate, shall be valued in  
terms of an average bundle of  
the world's major trading cur-  
rencies.

There is a paradox that those  
who wish to phase gold out of  
the monetary system and those  
who wish to restore it to its  
former position jointly advocate  
many of the same first steps  
towards their respectively quite  
different ends. Thus, for example,  
the moves in the United States  
to restore the right of private  
citizens to own gold can be seen

as having two diametrically  
opposed aims. It can either be  
seen as an admission that gold,  
not paper currency, is the only  
true store of value in an infla-  
tionary age. Alternatively it can  
be seen as a declaration that gold  
is merely another commodity,  
having no part in the monetary  
system, in which private individ-  
uals should therefore be free to  
speculate.

The central decision remains,  
as has always been the case,  
whether or not central banks will  
be allowed (or allow themselves)  
to buy gold from the free  
market. They have always been  
free to sell on the free market,  
but have understandably de-  
clined to do so, while the free  
market price has been higher  
than the official price and rising.  
The Americans have never  
dropped their opposition to the  
notion that central banks should  
be allowed to buy gold, thus  
potentially increasing the  
amount within the monetary  
system. There is now widespread  
support for the idea that the IMF  
should sell gold on the free  
market, having bought it from  
central banks. It remains to be  
seen whether there is any grow-  
ing support for the idea that the  
IMF should also be allowed to  
buy gold, either directly or in  
behalf of its members.

## IR PAY, BETTER HOUSING, BETTER HOURS

of policing in London  
ously threatened by  
of manpower. That  
clear by Sir Robert  
Commissioner of the  
Police, in presenting  
port yesterday. The  
not new and the police  
in this plight among  
services in London.  
living, especially of  
time and expense of  
work and the general  
life are so much  
to metropolitan area  
natural for those who  
their skills anywhere  
ry to prefer to do so  
uncomfortable and less  
findings. That applies  
local government  
en, general practi-  
other groups as well.  
A vicious circle has  
a number of them  
the shortage of  
cessional satisfaction  
makes the shortage  
worse.

police as well. The worst policing  
problems in the country are found  
in London. That is where the  
professional challenge is greatest,  
and there is no doubt of the  
satisfaction this can bring. But  
the shortage of staff makes work-  
ing conditions appalling in the  
sense that a man can never be sure  
of having his time off with his  
family. What is more, he can  
be repeatedly cancelled at a  
moment's notice to deal with a  
demonstration or some other  
threat to public order. This is  
naturally destructive of family  
life and the pressure of wives has  
a great deal to do with the high  
rate of wastage from the Metro-  
politan Police.

It is this rate of wastage that is  
the principal anxiety. It means  
that the position is in practice  
even worse than the manpower  
figures indicate because not only  
is there a net loss but each year  
experienced officers in mid-  
career are being replaced by raw  
recruits. The effect of all this  
on the quality of police work  
undoubtedly. There is no accurate  
measurement of the ideal level of  
police manpower. The authorized  
establishment, which has not been

reached in London for years, is  
no more than a notional calcula-  
tion. But it is clear that the  
present force is far below what is  
needed. With more men, and  
women, many areas of police work  
could be better staffed and there  
could be a more evident police  
presence on the streets, which can  
be no small disincentive to crime.

What then can be done? The  
most obvious remedies are more  
assistance with housing, the cost  
of which is a particular anxiety  
for the young policeman scraping  
up the money for a mortgage, and  
an adequate London allowance.  
These are both necessary. They  
could help in stem the flow of  
officers to provincial forces. But  
more will be required to prevent  
men leaving the police altogether.  
The only remedy for that is to  
improve the position of the police  
in the national salary scale. There  
is a powerful case for doing so for  
the sake of public order and  
safety. But it will not be easy.  
The interests of the public service  
professions until there are some arrangements  
to prevent leapfrogging wage  
increases.

is  
Harper  
port (June 3) of the  
occasion of probation  
leave at York last  
which a number of  
d for more bail hostels,  
a statement that "in  
of [bail] hostels" re-  
fied as of no fixed  
to prison instead of  
i bail", while awarding  
s indeed the position,  
sly unsatisfactory one,  
anism for bail hostels  
nely confusing the real  
is of course that no  
may properly be con-  
sidered, unless his con-  
ally justifies such a  
zently published report,  
vice working party on  
d that principle and  
bail should be granted

sa of right in all cases, unless there  
is sufficient grounds for refusing  
it. Nevertheless, they went on to  
welcome the establishment of bail  
hostels to which defendants of no  
fixed abode, who are "otherwise  
suitable for bail", may be sent "as  
a condition of bail".

The qualification "otherwise"  
merely begs the question at issue.  
Individuals who are suitable for bail  
(because there is no significant risk  
of their absconding, interfering with  
witnesses or committing further  
offences while on bail) should be  
granted their liberty unconditionally,  
those of no fixed abode, no less  
than those of a more conventional  
life-style. If people wish to "live  
rough" that is their choice, and it  
is not a choice which the courts are  
entitled to frustrate, making its  
enforced abandonment a condition  
of bail (with imprisonment the only  
alternative) as though the mere fact  
of being without a fixed abode re-

buted the presumption of innocence  
—a presumption which the working  
party themselves maintained should  
govern bail decisions, no less than  
decisions on guilt.

But for section 18(5) (e) of the  
Criminal Justice Act 1967, which  
provides that a court may refuse  
bail "where it appears" that a defen-  
dant "has no fixed abode" there  
would be no case for bail hostels  
which could not equally well be met  
by ordinary hostels for the homeless,  
who are homeless, not from choice,  
but from force of circumstances.  
Section 18(5) (a) ought to be re-  
pealed, and bail hostels are merely  
helping to sustain it in being. It is  
time middle-headed liberals got their  
priorities straight.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM HARPER,  
3 Milton Court,  
Barbican, EC2,  
June 5.

## Edinburgh Opera House plans

From the Lord Provost of Edinburgh  
Sir, Mr. Bernard Levin, author of the  
article "The mean burghers of  
Scotland's capital" in today's Times  
(June 11), is a journalist whom we  
have had the pleasure of welcoming  
at our Edinburgh Festival on several  
occasions. As he confesses to a love  
of Edinburgh (though he has a funny  
way of showing it) I am sorry to learn  
from his article that he is so ignorant  
about it.

Can I set a few facts against his  
fantasies?

Edinburgh has made a definite  
decision to build an Opera House.  
In the autumn of 1971 the Corporation  
received an offer of grant from the  
Scottish Arts Council, and the  
Government approved the brief for  
grant and in June 1973 the Corpora-  
tion finally approved the brief and  
instructed the project to start.

The first stage of design will be  
completed by the summer of 1974.  
The Corporation has already spent  
on fees etc. already exceeds half a  
million pounds. The project, at  
January 1974 prices, is expected to  
cost £18 million all told, and design  
and construction is programmed to  
be completed by 1981.

The complex is being built to  
house Edinburgh's theatrical activity  
of all kinds—not only grand opera—  
but also the Scottish National  
Orchestra and a whole host of local  
theatres within its boundaries, and  
annually Edinburgh Corporation  
give substantial subsidies to Scottish  
opera, the Scottish National  
Orchestra and a whole host of local  
theatres, musical and cultural groups.

Up to and including 1973 Edin-  
burgh Corporation's direct contribu-  
tions to the International Festival  
have totalled £1,327,000. This figure  
does not include the many indirect  
contributions to the Festival by  
utilization of Corporation depart-  
mental services.

Mr. Levin says that "Edinburgh  
is keeping the standard of hotels  
down". Though I don't explain  
why, what Mr. Levin may not know  
is that Edinburgh's "mean burghers"  
manage to do so. In fact, since  
1970 four large new hotels have  
been opened and extensions made  
to three other first-class hotels making  
almost 1,000 new beds available to  
visitors. The Edinburgh Festival  
in addition to building new  
accommodation for lectures, expan-  
ded its university halls of residence  
so that in the summer months when  
the students are on holiday up to  
1,000 visitors can be accommodated  
in any one night.

My references to  
Edinburgh prudishness are all too  
typical of the kind of thing we have  
come to expect from ill-informed  
journalists hard up for a headline.  
We had looked for something better  
from Mr. Levin. He may not know  
—although he should—that Edin-  
burgh Corporation for several years  
has subsidized that most adventurous  
and outspoken of experimental  
theatres, the Traverse, and that  
indeed but for the Corporation's  
help it would not now be in  
existence.

Perhaps when Mr. Levin attends  
this year's Festival—and I under-  
stand he will take the opportunity  
of becoming better informed about  
the culture of the arts in Edinburgh.  
JACK KANE, Lord Provost,  
City Chambers,  
Edinburgh,  
June 11.

From the Director-General of the  
Confederation of British Industry  
Sir, Professor Wedderburn (June  
12) clearly agrees that the Trade  
Union and Labour Relations Bill  
would provide a major extension  
of legal immunity for trade unions,  
both in respect of the use of the  
boycott and blockade and in re-  
lation to trade disputes outside Great  
Britain. The essential burden of  
his argument is that it makes in-  
dustrial relations sense for the law  
to confer upon trade unions this  
vast enlargement of their power.

His suggestion that the decision  
in *Torquay Hotel v Cousins* would  
afford a barrier to the kind of  
industrial action I suggested in my  
letter (June 11) is hardly convinc-  
ing. Courts have on other occasions  
interpreted the term "industrial  
dispute" extremely widely, and there  
is no reason to suppose that this  
approach would change in face of  
legislation clearly designed to pro-  
vide carte blanche for trade unions  
and their officials.

## D-Day commemoration

From Brigadier Sir Alexander  
Stanner  
Sir, Having just returned from the  
Normandy beach, I am disap-  
pointed at the small amount of space  
in the press given to the 30th anni-  
versary of the landings in France.  
Particularly to the spirit of the  
occasion, which means so much to the  
small towns and villages liberated by  
the British liberation army in 1944.

For my part, I shall ever remember  
the packed church at Asnelles-sur-  
Mer where the service ended with  
the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*. Later  
the naming of the roads from the  
beach—Devonshire Drive, Hamp-  
shire after the infantry regiments  
who came that way on June 6, 1944.  
The inauguration of the trees and  
shrubs given by the British to  
surround the village memorial.  
Finally the solemn ceremony in the  
beautifully kept cemetery at  
Bayeux amongst the 4,000 graves.

Yet again at Hotot (pop 200) in the  
bocage country where much heavy  
fighting took place. Here we stood  
in the centre of the village whilst  
the children sang *God Save the  
Queen*, in English. A moving and  
proud moment.

Everywhere we went we were  
welcomed and offered hospitality.  
The local inhabitants did not come  
to commemorate war, but instead to  
once again remember the friendship  
and gratitude extended in 1944 and  
still very much alive in 1974.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER STANNER,  
The Manor,  
East Farndon,  
Market Harborough,  
Leicestershire,  
June 11.

## A cruiser from Jutland

From Mr. A. W. Thorburn  
Sir, With reference to the letter  
headed "A Cruiser from Jutland"  
regarding HMS Caroline (May 31),  
I believe that Calloppe, the flagship  
of the 4th Light Cruiser Squadron  
under Commander C. L. E. Mearns,  
(of which Caroline was a member)  
in which I served as a Third Writer,  
at Jutland, is at Newcastle as head-  
quarters of the RNVR there, so why  
should not she be restored and pre-  
served rather than Caroline?

Yours faithfully,  
ALEX W. THORBURN,  
Longview,  
11a Great Wheatley Rd.,  
Raleigh,  
Basingstoke,  
May 31.

## Legal immunity for strikers

From Mr. J. B. Bransbury  
Sir, Mr. Campbell Adamson is  
brilliantly right and Professor Wedder-  
burn is certainly wrong in their  
references to the consequences of  
the Bill now before Parliament of  
which it is widely believed Professor  
Wedderburn was the inspiration and  
perhaps even at times the drafts-  
man.

The Torquay Hotel case turned on  
a narrow point of fact; were the acts  
of Mr Cousins and others against the  
Imperial Hotel intended to help  
them in their dispute with the Tor-  
quay Hotel? Lord Denning said:  
"The only question is whether the  
acts done by the defendant union  
officials against the Imperial Hotel  
were done in furtherance of the  
trade dispute with the Torbay  
Hotel. I do not think they were."  
In respect of the furtherance of the  
dispute or not; and the miners'  
picketing in the spring of 1972  
(before the relevant sections of the  
1971 law had come into operation)  
will illustrate the danger.

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. BRANSBURY, Chairman of  
the Industrial Relations Sub-  
Committee of the Bar Association  
for Commerce, Finance and  
Industry,  
Buckley Grove,  
Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire,  
June 12.

From the Director-General of the  
Confederation of British Industry  
Sir, Professor Wedderburn (June  
12) clearly agrees that the Trade  
Union and Labour Relations Bill  
would provide a major extension  
of legal immunity for trade unions,  
both in respect of the use of the  
boycott and blockade and in re-  
lation to trade disputes outside Great  
Britain. The essential burden of  
his argument is that it makes in-  
dustrial relations sense for the law  
to confer upon trade unions this  
vast enlargement of their power.

## Break-up of farms

From Lord Porchester  
Sir, The declared intention of some  
to prevent any form of inherited  
land, prompts me to examine the  
effects of the application of this  
policy to farm and forest land  
and the countryside. What could be  
more prudent than those who farm  
land and grow timber and try to  
enhance their property making  
every effort to hand over the fruits  
of their work to those who may  
succeed them?

The building up of any industrial  
enterprise involves considerable  
capital, some risk, and much hard  
work, and farm land in particular  
requires very personal attention and  
produces a low return on capital  
invested. The stewardship of an  
estate, exactly like a farming, means  
the caring for and love of your  
property, and the task of maintaining  
and where possible improving the  
quality and beauty of this heritage.

Many years of devotion to this  
cause brings with it the very natural  
desire to leave it in the hands of  
those you love and those you have  
tried to bring up to care for their  
home. If there is no possibility of  
owner occupier-farmers and estate  
owners seeing their own and their  
predecessors' life's work handed on,  
then the incentive to improve and  
beautify the countryside will be

## Taxing works of art

From Mr. George Levy and others  
Sir, As representatives of the Fine  
Art Trade in the United Kingdom,  
we are writing to say how deeply  
concerned we are at any suggestion  
that the proposed wealth tax might  
include pictures and works of art.

If it were to happen, the long  
standing tradition of private collec-  
toring in this country could be brought  
to an end with very serious conse-  
quences. This would not only lead  
to the dispersal of the great collec-  
tions in this country (Mr. Denis  
Mahon's letter, June 10) but equally  
affect collectors of limited means  
and private art lovers.

Furthermore, we are convinced  
that the administrative problems of  
valuation are enormous and of fair  
valuation even greater, and that this  
would inevitably lead to gross  
arbitrariness.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE J. LEVY,  
President, British Antique Dealers'  
Association,  
I. O. CHANCE,  
Chairman, Christie, Manson &  
Woods Ltd.,  
C. P. WESTON, Chairman,  
Society of Fine Art Auctioneers,  
GEOFFREY AGNEW, Chairman,  
Society of London Art Dealers,  
PETER WILSON, Chairman,  
Sotheby & Co.,  
London, W1,  
June 12.

## Dress in court

From Mrs Barbara Kew  
Sir, It was interesting to read that a  
young solicitor's clerk was con-  
sidered improperly dressed in court  
because she was wearing trousers.  
In departments of social service  
and down the country young social  
workers are familiar with this prob-  
lem. I know of no case where a  
social worker has been asked to  
leave court, but certainly made out-  
side court by formal and informal

## Freeing gunmen in Germany

From Lord Janner  
Sir, Some weeks ago you devoted  
space on your centre pages to Willy  
Brandt's apprehension at the anti-  
democratic trends within western  
political life 30 years after the  
destruction of the Nazi tyranny. The  
parliamentary and economic insa-  
lability of most western governments  
and, in Italy's case, economic  
problems combined with violent  
inter-party rivalries, seems to bear  
out the former Chancellor's  
argument.

It is depressingly ironic, however,  
that it should be the Federal Re-  
public which has so conspicuously  
failed to resist the demands of the  
international "demolition squad"  
gnawing away at the fabric of our  
social and political order.

After the Munich Olympics  
tragedy the surviving Arab gunmen  
were unconditionally released by  
West Germany. Today two more  
convicted terrorists were set free,  
not as a result of an act of terrorism  
but in fact in anticipation of disrup-  
tion at the World Cup.

Herr Schmidt's government has  
clearly demonstrated the vulner-  
ability of West Germany to similar  
operations, and will undoubtedly  
give encouragement to those forces  
who believe in the legitimacy of  
violent tactics as a means of creating  
social and political change. We may  
all have to bear the cost of today's  
political misjudgment.

Yours sincerely,  
JANNER,  
House of Lords,  
June 12.

## Deported from West Bank

From Dr Wold Kamhawi  
Sir, Last December I was one of  
eight Palestinian Arabs deported  
from the West Bank by the Israeli  
authorities. At midnight, on Decem-  
ber 10, 1973, the Day of Human  
Rights, we were simultaneously  
visited by members of the Israeli  
Security Forces. Arrested, blind-  
folded and most of us handcuffed,  
we were forcibly led out of our  
homes. No warning of arrest was  
given to us but we were given no time  
allowed us to bid farewell to our  
families or collect our personal  
effects. After seven hours of seem-  
ingly aimless driving, we were  
dumped in the Wadi Araba desert  
area and persuaded at bayonet point  
(demonstrated by our captors)  
to walk in the direction of the  
Jordanian lines. No charges have  
since been brought against us, and,  
as far as we can determine, we were  
merely the latest victims of the  
favourite Israeli policy of arbitrary  
deportation of Palestinian civil  
leaders.

At present, we are separated from  
our homes and families. We have  
no idea whether and when we will  
be back. At our age, it is difficult  
for us to start again from scratch, as  
we are already well given to settle  
in our homeland. Consequently, we  
have no means of livelihood and we  
are unable to secure the needs of our  
dependants.

We do not consider the Israeli  
occupation authorities to have any  
legal grounds for the action which  
they took against us. Naturally, we  
reject the Israeli occupation of our  
homeland; but we have transgressed  
no law or convention in doing so.  
We declare ourselves ready to return  
at any time and face any charges the  
Israelis may bring against us.

We appeal to you to convey this  
readiness to the Israeli authorities.  
And we appeal through you to  
British and world opinion to help us  
in securing what we believe we are  
entitled to as human beings (whether  
under occupation or not), a fair trial.  
If the Israeli authorities refuse to  
prove incapable of giving us such a  
trial, we still would prefer imprison-  
ment, however unjustified, in our  
own homeland, to banishment from  
it. We sincerely hope that we will  
be accorded more equal treatment  
to that given by British and other  
Western countries to Alexander  
Solzhenitsyn and many others. Such  
support will greatly strengthen us in  
resisting the injustice by which Israel  
has separated us from our land and  
families.

Yours,  
WALID KAMHAWI (for the eight  
expelled Palestinians),  
105 Grand Building,  
Trafalgar Square, WC2.

## Activities of priests

From the Reverend Joseph O'Hanlon  
Sir, One must agree with Mr. J. W.  
Kennedy (June 11) that the failure  
of the Catholic hierarchy to condemn  
unequivocally the activities of some  
few priests must give cause for con-  
cern and scandal. One might add that  
some clarification of the moral  
implications of hunger-striking might  
not have gone amiss recently. But  
whatever the reasons for their silence  
on these issues (and we await  
explanation), it cannot be maintained  
with any degree of seriousness that  
the bishops condone criminal actions.

Nor is it consistent with any avail-  
able evidence to suggest that, in  
relation to the Ulster troubles, the  
Irish clergy in Britain are insensitive  
to the feelings of their hosts. Are  
we to believe that the whole body of  
Irish clergy in this country lends  
moral or political support to  
bombers, bank robbers, kidnappers  
or even hunger strikers? Allegations  
of this kind demand considerable  
evidence. It is scarcely in accord  
with the demands of justice to accuse  
so many dedicated Christians of  
causing "very severe damage to the  
Church" without recourse to sub-  
stantiation. It is at least possible that  
the guest, and not the host, is the  
offended party.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH O'HANLON,  
St Hugh's College,  
Tollerton Hall,  
Nottingham.

## Half a skeleton in the cupboard

From Mrs Joan Tucker  
Sir, When my elder son began his  
medical training seven years ago he  
paid £10 for half a human skeleton.  
Three years later my younger son  
entered medical school, and the  
value of these bones had risen to £20.  
My daughter is soon to train as a  
physiotherapist, and one of her re-  
quirements is half a human skeleton.  
And the cost now? £40 to £50.

What better investment than a  
skeleton in the cupboard?

Yours faithfully,  
JOAN TUCKER,  
55 Morrah Road,  
Penzance,  
Cornwall,  
June 11.

## Non-stick stamps

From Mr. P. Nicholls  
Sir, Mr. R. A. S. Thomas (June 11) is  
quite right. If you lick the stamp a  
portion of the gum is removed by  
the tongue; whilst if you lick the  
envelope the whole of the gum re-  
mains on the stamp.

Yours truly,  
P. NICHOLLS,  
Rush Common House,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire.











## GUARDIAN INVESTMENT TRUST

Mr. M. B. Baring's Review

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited will be held on July 4th, in London. The following is the statement of the Chairman, Mr. M. B. Baring, circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended March 31st, 1974.

### RESIGNATION OF MR. G. L. C. TOUCHE

Mr. George Touche told your Board in November he wished to spend less time in the City and to expand more of his undiminished energy on other interests, and so it was with regret that we had to accept not only his resignation as Chairman but also, at his insistence, his retirement from the Board.

Mr. Touche served the Company as Chairman for eight years, having joined the Board as a Director in July 1957, and your Company has been fortunate to have had such a distinguished and well-known Chairman whose career and leadership in the investment Trust world has been recognised as second to none. His wisdom and decisive moral integrity was spiced by humour and a sense of fun so that he was respected and greatly liked by all who worked for this Company.

Now any skill, virtue or vice of a new Chairman will gradually, or perhaps suddenly, be put to the test. I appreciate the opportunity my colleagues have given me and will rely considerably on the advice they are so well qualified to offer and hope we shall continue to work as a strong team.

### LOW LEVEL OF STOCK MARKET

The past year has been the most difficult and frustrating for our work that I can remember and this is reflected in the depressingly low level of the Stock Market. The investor is still faced with a great deal of uncertainty, such as the possible imminence of another General Election and the details of the Chancellor's proposed second Budget. Moreover the acute deterioration in the balance of payments, which has been greatly aggravated by the massive rise in oil prices, has surely created the need for all to co-operate in a national effort to restore economic equilibrium.

### SOME IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Against this background, it is not going to be an easy year for your Trust. The world's economies are still suffering from massive inflation, and in the U.K. the equity investor is still handicapped by the retention of dividend control which deprives him of an important part of his compensation for being the provider of risk capital. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the current level of the U.K. market now largely discounts the acknowledged problems which lie ahead and, accordingly, I feel that it is not unreasonable to expect some improvement in stock market levels during the current year.

## Datsun Cherry leads the Beetle in UK list of imported car sales

By Edward Tinnwood

The Datsun Cherry has emerged as the best selling imported car in Britain. In the first five months of the year, sales of the Japanese model totalled 6,767, a few hundred more than its nearest rival, the Volkswagen Beetle.

In May two Datsun models, the Cherry with sales of 1,525 and the Sunny with 1,442, were first and second most popular foreign cars.

The figures, released today by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, also show that the importers' share of the United Kingdom car market

although fairly static in the five-month period, dropped from 27.15 per cent in May last year to 26.11 per cent last month.

In a total United Kingdom market depressed by 23 per cent over May last year, Renault retained its position as leading importer followed by Datsun, Fiat and Volkswagen.

New registrations of British Leyland cars were down from 43,636 in May, last year, to 35,930. But the company managed to boost its overall share of the market from 29.82 per cent to 31.88 per cent. Over the five months, BLMC's market penetration was 34.51 per cent.

Ford, which makes the best selling car in Britain, the Cortina, saw its market share rise from 22.89 per cent last May, 1973, to 25.24 per cent last month. Second in the best selling list is the Ford Escort followed by the Mini, Avenger, Vauxhall Viva, Hillman and the Allegro.

Vauxhall's market share dropped to 5.69 per cent last month against 8.30 per cent in May, 1973, and registrations dipped from 12,157 to 7,539.

The total market for cars in the United Kingdom in the five months was 554,182 vehicles, of which 139,743 were imported.

## Scrap tyres could yield oil

By Clifford Webb

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, of America, has announced plans for a full-scale evaluation of a remarkable recovery process which transforms unwanted scrap tyres into oil, carbon black and steel.

Mr. Charles Pilioid, Goodyear's chairman, said: "We estimate that one full-scale scrap tyre recovery plant, if proved feasible, could annually recover enough petrol chemicals and other materials from eight million scrap tyres to build an additional two million tyres a year, including the energy necessary to produce them."

He said that Goodyear scientists believed that the recycled oil could be further refined for

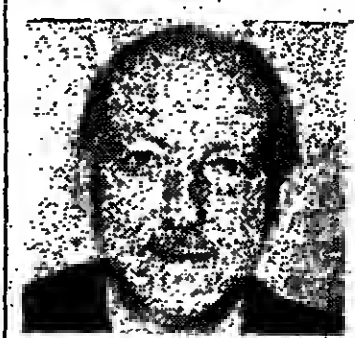
a wide range of uses, from manufacturing additional rubber products to heating homes. It could also be processed and used as a component in lead-free petrol.

The disposal of 200 million scrap tyres annually is one of the world's biggest environmental problems.

The new recovery process has been developed by Tosco, an American oil shale company. It has been tested in a pilot plant handling 25 tons of tyres a day and is said to be ready for evaluation.

Goodyear is talking in terms of eight million scrap tyres producing 15 million gallons of oil, 75 million lb of carbon black and two million lb of steel.

### Business appointments



Mr. J. A. Herfurth, who becomes director-general of the American Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom on August 1, for the past eight years he has been the United States Consul General responsible for consulates in Britain.

## Changes at the top for Metal Closures Group

Changes have been made to the main and subsidiary boards of the Metal Closures Group. Mr. J. Boden becomes executive chairman of the group and Mr. J. Houghton sole group managing director. Mr. N. C. Bilton is appointed an additional director, and Mr. W. R. Gamble resigns from the board and from subsidiaries. Mr. W. Roberts becomes group secretary in succession to Mr. V. Nash, who retires from the post but remains on the board. At Metal Closures Ltd, Mr. Boden is appointed chairman and Mr. J. Cassara managing director. Mr. Cassara also becomes chairman of Johnson Bros (Closures) and the Stopper Manufacturing Co. Mr. Nash becomes chairman of Ideal Capsules, and Mr. Houghton has been made president of Alcapa Italiana SpA, but retires from the board of all other United Kingdom subsidiaries.

Mr. W. C. Thomson is to become chairman and Mr. G. H. Fairclough managing director of Shell Chemicals UK from September 1. Mr. E. J. Mackay is resigning from the post to take up an appointment outside the Shell group.

Mr. G. V. Smith has been appointed regional director, Europe, for Rolls-Royce (1971) from July 15. He will be based in Paris at Rolls-Royce (France). Mr. Michael Warren becomes manager of the Paris office.

Sir Frederick Catherwood will join the board of William Matheson and Denny Watt.

The following have been appointed dealing directors of the Charles Fulton Group: Mr. J. A. Beard, Mr. D. M. Barrett, Mr. J. Daltry, Mr. J. Fohister, Mr. A. Houghton, Mrs. Angela Howarth, Mr. J. Little, Mr. R. Phelps, Mr. P. D. Porter, Mr. A. R. Prime and Mr. W. S. Thomson.

Mr. John Ellis has been made vice-president of the Midland National Bank in charge of the bank's European activities and head of the bank's London representative office.

Mr. S. Benjamin, Mr. P. D. Jones, Mr. H. S. Scarfield, Mr. D. R. Spackman and Mr. F. R. Wales have been elected to the council of the Institute of Actuaries.

Mr. V. C. Malton has been appointed a director of Winton Securities.

Mr. G. F. E. Scruby, senior partner of Sir Frederick Sow and Partners, has been elected chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers.

Mr. R. S. Owers has been appointed managing director of Bahamas International Trust Co on the retirement of Mr Harold Revington.

Mr. M. Hollnash, chairman of Kearley and Tonge, has been elected chairman of the British Importers Confederation in succession to Mr. H. C. Cave.

Mr. Richard Lewis has been made a regional director of the South Wales regional board of Elyons Bank.

## NOTICE OF REDEMPTION To the Holders of Government of New Zealand Twelve Year 6 3/4% Bonds due July 15, 1979

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Bonds of the above-described issue, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Fiscal Agent, has drawn by lot for redemption on July 15, 1974, at 100% of the principal amount thereof through operation of the Sinking Fund \$769,000 principal amount of said Twelve Year 6 3/4% Bonds due July 15, 1979 bearing the following distinctive numbers:

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## rs over effects of tion on flow of aid ie Commonwealth

Westlake that inflation and crisis may lead to a flow of aid to nations from the d countries is ex- the Commonwealth Corporation report

when, because of ces beyond their world's poorer com- suffering just as the more affluent is the "earliest CDC that develop- augmented rather- shed"

is particularly fear- night be compelled funds to reject for investment in new development n the expansion of and economically projects already in

says that 1973 was out successful years 's 25-year history ch will be hard to ight of economic w prevailing. A \$1,000 of new in- approved by the last year for new and the expansion projects (31). isbursements (as

## chief speaks of growth dilemma

ld be on the verge cal advance, and of its poor invest- could be a blessing according to Mr. Len- nary of the Trades

view, published in tion of The Direc- s that because s Britain has a hnological base, ould have an edge rs in the next e address our- to the problem " it there are histori- s for this, notably ghteenth and mid- uries.

says that one of mes of the age is- country can recon- ne unique qualities

chauvinistic per- ere is something itish way of life

## biggest ore wins g consent

gained planning lid a 100,000 sq ft is biggest yet. The Secretary has company's plan- ion to develop a at Irlam, near

Porter, the chair- ightly "delighted" and now more a dozen other p has in the pipe-

sterday: "Super- give us the demonstrate how- ices significantly- tent at Irlam will with its biggest ring in the region: 'gross, all on one rface car parking ately 1,000 cars, many other cus- ies and provision made for consid- ing of the site".

cts work will start superstore short- ly application had d favourably by county planning but, because of the development, the f the Environment application

## CONSOLIDATED EXPLORATION NY LIMITED

the Republic of South Africa

OF DIVIDEND No. 69

interim report and announced in the press 1974, the conversion to payments in U.K. he above mentioned R1.01/33 equivalent

of South Africa Shareholders' tax is

London Secretaries and Administrators (S.A.) Limited, 100, Victoria Road, Victoria, Cape Town, S.A.

office at the London Secretaries and Administrators (S.A.) Limited, 100, Victoria Road, Victoria, Cape Town, S.A.

## L COLD STORAGE AND MPANY LIMITED

the Republic of South Africa

DIVIDEND ON SHARER

notice of the interim on the preference company advertised in the press 1974, the conversion to payments in U.K. he above mentioned R1.01/33 equivalent

of South Africa Shareholders' tax is

London Secretaries and Administrators (S.A.) Limited, 100, Victoria Road, Victoria, Cape Town, S.A.

## American firms found guilty of \$7.5m fraud

An American national accounting firm, Lavenhol, Krekstein, Horwin & Horwin, and Allen and Co Inc, considered one of Wall Street's most sophisticated investment banking concerns, committed fraud in a 1969 private offering of \$7.5 about (\$3m) in securities, a United States district judge has ruled.

Financial statements issued by the Firestone Group, a California real estate company, and audited by Lavenhol, were false and misleading, Judge Lloyd F. MacMahon of New York concluded. He said Allen and Co Inc, "encouraged" dissemination of the statements and was "equally culpable" with Lavenhol.

## Ronson denied order against Liquifin AG

Liquifin AG, said Judge Charles Tenney of the United States, denied Ronson Corporation's motion for a temporary restraining order against Liquifin and others in their proxy fight to gain control of Ronson's board.

In turn, Liquifin has filed a counter claim against Ronson, maker of lighters and appliances, alleging violations of securities laws in connection with Ronson's proxy solicitation.

## ITT in Avis move

To meet the deadline for divesting itself of a 52 per cent interest in Avis Inc, International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) is considering the sale of subordinated debentures that could be exchanged for Avis common stock.

## Multinationals plea

The United States has called on other countries to avoid "arbitrary and capricious actions" against multinational corporations. The call came at a three-week session of a United Nations conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) working group which is drafting a United Nations charter of economic rights and duties.

## Weekly loss by broiler men put at £750,000

With present feed costs and selling prices the British broiler industry is losing about £750,000 a week, according to Lord Edward Fitzroy, chairman of the British Poultry Federation. He was speaking at the inauguration in London yesterday of a new information service for the industry as a whole.

The service covers ducks and turkeys, as well as chickens, and eggs. Mr Bernard Matthews said that a new promotion for small turkeys at low prices would be launched in about a fortnight's time, as a midsummer lull. One object was to clear cold stores for the Christmas trade in larger birds.

# When you are leading users of radio isotopes - what kind of engineers are you?



In brief, very, very advanced ones. When you manufacture machines that produce cigarettes at the rate of 4000 a minute (that's 66 every second), and ancillary equipment that counts them, weighs them and inspects them for flaws and tobacco density at that speed too, it is not difficult to understand the sort of precision involved.

That precision is achieved by expertise in many disciplines, including precise high speed mechanisms,

sophisticated electronic and nucleonic techniques—we are among Britain's leading users of radio isotopes\*—and the development and use of advanced numerically-controlled machine tools.

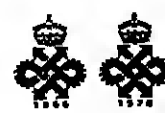
Then there's our printing, packaging and paper-handling machinery subsidiary, Masson Scott Thrissell, whose rotogravure machines can print 800 million multicolour food packs a year. That's a very precise business too.

Yes, precision engineering is our business and our high standard is one of the reasons we are world leaders in our field.

\*Molins have co-operated closely with The Radiochemical Centre at Amersham, Bucks, for more than twenty years.

Molins Limited,  
Evelyn Street,  
London SE8 5DH.

**MOLINS**  
International Precision Engineers



M4

## Combined English Stores Group Limited

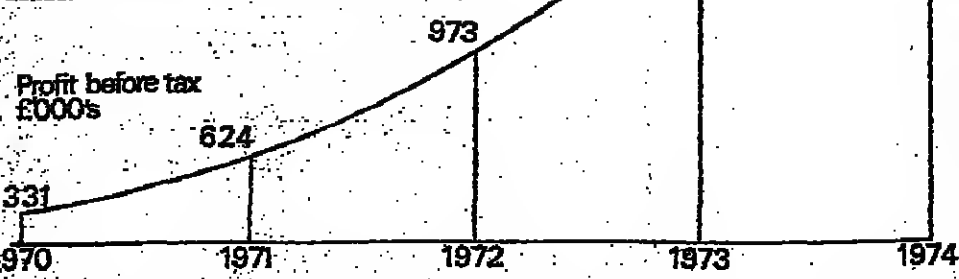


## Multiple Specialist Retailers operating 566 shops in the U.K. and Belgium

### Chairman Murray Gordon reports:

"The public have demonstrated their preference for shopping in modern and attractive specialist shops such as ours and I am confident of the long term profitable development of the Group."

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Dorchester Hotel, London, on 12th June 1974. Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the Company Secretary, 1-6 Clay Street, London W.1.



## ATLAS ELECTRIC AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED



(Management Group: Touche, Remnant & Co.)

The following are salient points from the report and accounts of the company for the year to 31st March, 1974.

- The recommended final dividend for the year is 0.70p which together with the interim dividend of 0.35p and Shareholders imputed tax credits of approximately 0.49p is equal to a total gross dividend of 1.54p compared with 1.40p. The Board is confident that the increased dividend can be maintained.
- The valuation of investments at 31st March, 1974, was £52,891,349 compared with £74,435,658 last year. This figure includes £2,862,077 being the full investment currency premium of 27 per cent.
- Asset value per share is 43½p compared with 61½p the previous year and includes 2.6p (1.9p) representing the investment currency premium.
- Immediate prospects for the U.K. economy are still obscure but many of the bearish factors should be discounted at present levels. In addition there are several favourable longer-term factors: U.K. exports are now very competitive on a price basis, the possible benefits of North Sea Oil are steadily coming nearer and growing in size and there are signs that the rise in commodity prices is coming to an end.
- The market values as at 31st March, 1974, of the twenty largest investments (convertibles and all classes of equity in any one company being treated as one investment) were as follows:—

Market Value at 31.3.74		Market Value at 31.3.74	
£'000		£'000	
Jardine Japan Fund	2,115	Standard & Chartered Banking Gp.	739
General Electric Co.	1,635	Allied Breweries	716
"Shell" Transport & Trading	1,095	Jardine Eastern Trust	650
George Wimpey	1,088	Imperial Chemical Industries	630
Indeseco	994	Hongkong & Shanghai Bkng. Corp.	625
Royal Dutch Petroleum N.V.	975	Thorn Electrical Industries	622
Unilever N.V.	963	Rio Tinto-Zinc	585
Burmah Oil	897	Sphere Investment Trust	580
Barclays Bank	768	Unilever	570
Anglo American Investment Trust	765	Grand Metropolitan	560

These investments total £17,511,529 or 33.1 per cent. of the portfolio.

### PROGRESS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year to 31st March	Total income £'000	Gross Ordinary dividend per share p	Total assets less current liabilities £	Net asset value of Ordinary share p	Ordinary share price	Index: 1964=100 U.K. Index of retail prices	Dividend Per Ord. Share	Net Asset Value
1965	2,111	1.042	39,322	29	102	105	119	100
1969	2,088	1.208	68,360	55½	164	125	138	191
1973	2,179	1.40	75,069	61½	180	165	160	212
1974	2,928	1.54	58,304	43½	116	184	176	150

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, 3 London Wall Buildings, London, EC2M 5PE.







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Freight rate momentum at Tate & Lyle

is currently the name of the Tate & Lyle sugar company. Just how playing the game is from the doubling of the profits to £14.2m against expectations of around £8m.



Mr John O. Lyle, chairman of Tate & Lyle, strength in shipping and overseas.

tribution from shipping up from £1.9m to £3.6m or 36 per cent before central charges. True, shipping in the second half year, but it has done better in the first year.

the market is now self just how much a scale freight rates can last, given the 1 scale freight rates. This point, that the two £4,000s are out of the market and several of the others are also on medium-term contracts. That speaks for high contribution for some time in the 15 parcel market, and to attract more, rather than world or strong performer re-distribution-trading, a contribution rose to £5.8m through this area with a very deep half of 1973. Re-United States price had here and there various reasons for the law sugar production from a £0.17m loss 74m profit reflecting the and the climatic

most companies in the group currently have satisfactory order books. Admittedly, losses were incurred in Northern Ireland during the general strike, but that hardly seems likely to wipe out a momentum that is not fully accounted for in a p/e ratio of under 4 on latest year's earnings with the shares at 54p.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)  
Capitalization £9.8m  
Sales £26.4m (£22.6m)  
Pre-tax profits £2.85m (£1.87m)  
Dividend gross 1.66p (1.57p)

## CompAir After the power crisis

CompAir was already talking of a component shortage before the power crisis. Its pessimistic statement at February's annual meeting that a "miracle" would be needed to produce satisfactory results this year only served to underline stock market fears already reflected in a share price of 82p, compared with a price of £1.20 last year. And at 50p yesterday, the shares took a £0.3m fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to March 31 in their stride.

Now CompAir is talking of making up most of this shortfall in the second six months, with some analysts even talking of £6m pre-tax for the current year against £5.8m in 1972/73, which points to a prospective p/e ratio of a little under 8 accompanied by a 62 per cent yield.

CompAir was looking for £3m before tax in the opening six months. Whether short-time working has any lasting effect on the supply of bought-in components remains to be seen. But these accounts for between 30 and 70 per cent of CompAir's needs and with the acute shortage of diesel engines, likely to be only a little easier by the year end, the implications for profits are clear.

A rationalization of CompAir's product range may help cut costs and with a growing overseas contribution—now 64 per cent of sales—provide some relief for margins. CompAir points down this year. But it is a moot point whether all this makes the shares cheap in the short-term.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)  
Capitalization £22.2m  
Sales £20.5m (£22.3m)  
Pre-tax profits £2.3m (£2.65m)  
Dividend gross 1.45p (1.43p)

## Kenning Motor Judicious timing

Kenning Motor Group can thank its judgment in selling its holding property last year for some £3.4m as its interim figures have held up as well as they

have. For although both profits and turnover are down on the previous year, the financing problems which have beset some in the motor trade are notably less severe here.

Despite the general downturn in new car registrations and the difficulties in the used car market, Kenning has managed to contain stock levels successfully at the half-way stage and, with the benefit of the interest on the proceeds of the property sale, financing charges have fallen from £0.51m to £0.40m. That, in turn, has enabled margins to be pegged at 2.6 per cent against 2.7 per cent in the comparable period, which is encouraging in the circumstances.

Highlighting a British Leyland franchise has clearly had its attractions this year, since supply of Austin Morris's small car range has continued to fall short of demand. But while that should still give Kenning a sales edge over some other distributors, supply and demand are coming more into balance now and whatever short term hopes there may have been for a general sales revival must have taken a bump from this recent 3 per cent price rise.

So there can be little surprise in the board's forecast that last year's second-half profits will not be matched. Kenning has already shown some defensive strength, but if one assumes earnings per share down from 7.9p to say, 6.4p, the shares are selling at between 5.7 and 6.2 times prospective earnings, 32p and looking quite high even so.

Interim: 1973/74 (1972/73)  
Capitalization £7.7m  
Sales £33.7m (£30.7m)  
Pre-tax profits £1.56m (£1.65m)  
Dividend gross 2p (2p)

## Electronic Rentals Another solid advance

Electronic Rentals had a dull enough start to the year, with interim pre-tax profits just 10 per cent up, but the market remained unimpressed with yesterday's preliminary figures, which showed profits usefully up by £0.68m to £3.4m pre-tax in the second half.

As for the interim statement, most of the running in the final six months was made by the group's camping division. While this showed only modest improvement, from £0.95m to £1.22m over the year, it was a lucky beneficiary of the fuel crisis, which gave a marked boost to the stove equipment side, resulting in a trebling of the second half contribution from £302,000 to £902,000.

On the rental side second half profits edged up from £2.1m to £2.4m, excluding the £111,000 losses the group is carrying overseas. In the overall picture, this division is right in the firing line of recent government measures, particularly advance payments on rentals that have, on the group's estimation, resulted in a fall of 40 per cent in new bookings in recent months. But ER also argues that the expansion seen in placements last year, reflected in depreciation charges up from £5.6m to £8.8m is enough to maintain income.

But much depends on interest rates, with finance charges up from £1.6m to £2.6m last year, while the camping side will have to fight hard to maintain its profits if the autumn falls to bring a further round of electricity cuts. At 45p the shares are on a p/e ratio of 9 and possibly overvalued.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73)  
Capitalization £24.6m  
Sales £41m (£33m)  
Pre-tax profits £5.95m (£5.04m)  
Earnings per share 5p (4.4p)  
Dividend gross 1.75p (1.66p)

# Maurice Corina on the state intervention row CBI's need to define private sector role

Quite suddenly, Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, finds himself out in the open, with the bounds baying. This time the squabbling CBI pack is being put in full cry by its new president, but who should be the new master but none other than the Prime Minister.

It promises to be a lively battle with Labour's rank-and-file and trade unionists dodging out of the underground as hunt saboteurs for the League Against Free Enterprise.

If some respected political commentators are to be believed, then Mr Wilson is taking personal command of Labour's industrial policy to reassure the private sector that the election manifesto was a worthless document.

It seems that publication in the Times last month of the TUC Labour Party Liaison Committee on the Department of Industry's current work programme has angered Mr Wilson, who, it must therefore be concluded, does not really want the back of Party and Cabinet Liaison committees he has created to perform their stated functions. They have no point if ministers cannot share their thoughts with those presumed to be the style of Labour Government.

Additionally, it is said that Mr Benn has dared break a rather long departmental silence with a couple of speeches, such as those to the National Union of General Workers and the Nottinghamshire miners' gala, to tell how election pledges will be fulfilled and private industry is lining its pockets with state money without strings attached.

Before the CBI leads the industrial community in three cheers for the Prime Minister, industrialists might be well advised to ask themselves: "Can all this be true?" After all, who made Mr Benn the Secretary of State for Industry? And who appointed Mr Eric Hoffer, a man of very clear views, to help him around the department?

At the same time, how is it that the man who acts as chairman of the Labour Campaign Committee, incorporating the former policy coordination committee of the Labour Party, is Mr Benn (dubious: "responsible for liaison between ministers and the national executive on policy matters and all election strategy")?

Further, the CBI, now in the throes of reappraisal of its constitution to help industry stand up to government, is taking care to do it in the political arena as it enters the political arena to do battle with Mr Benn. It is not that this writer subscribes to the Industry Secretary's views, rather that fairness requires some independent judgment from one who has watched his department more closely than most and actually asked the man some nasty questions.

What "Wedgie" (as the civil servants call him round at Victoria Street) has been doing is some hard research on all the ideas for further nationalization, changes in state aid arrangements, planning agreements and the National Enterprise Board. It is the kind of detailed research that is a political party out of office, and further, the intention is to publish a Green Paper as a basis for consultation and public discussion.

Surely industrialists would wish to be heard in the state intervention, Labour-style, to be brought right into the open. A decent debate on the role of the public and private sectors in industry is long overdue—and it must be serious. The last Conservative administration found itself driven by events towards more intervention for which it was ill-prepared by virtue of the "no help for lame ducks" policy (framed by a former CBI director) equal relevant to Cabinet rank.

Mr Benn has had his head down. There has been little time in his diary for the usual

ministerial glad-heading round the country. He has been busy with the hundreds, but to talk about policy. Indeed, he is one of the first industry ministers for a long time to concentrate solely on the job he was appointed to do.

Industrialists tell me that Mr Benn is the time bomb under the Prime Minister's minority. Nationalization, they say, is unpopular, so are the other ideas for more state control. Yet what is worrying is that they may be wrong. The manifesto did go before the electorate. The public is getting used to some of the ideas as time passes. And Mr Benn has been assiduous in securing strong trade union support, giving union leaders a feeling of participation. Powerful allies indeed.

But, before I am accused of running at the wrong end of the stick, let us hasten to my central point. What the so-called controversial minister is achieving has been partly by default. The CBI, as the premier representative organization for industry, has been in some disarray. Its leaders from the outset did not seem to take Mr Benn seriously.

The CBI has not thought anything like deeply enough about the role of the private sector in the economy. It has been too busy with its own agenda, its own steps forward to explain the "profit-makers" point of view, its own well-based arguments, but now is the electorate to judge issues?

But for such as Lords Warkentin, Plowden and Robens, who, in their individual ways, have sounded some warnings and tried to redefine industry's responsibilities in a more contemporary context, the CBI might have been more defensive against Mr Benn's recent emergence from purdah to make smooth appeals to public opinion.

The CBI's problem of defending the private sector has a longer history than back to the recent election, and Mr Campbell Adamson's eye-for-politicians Act. This emerges from the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that at least 20 of the most senior industrialists have for some time found the CBI lacking when it comes to representing their interests and championing their cause.

At first sight, the new president, Mr Ralph Bateman, may seem hardly up to the task of meeting the demands for constitutional changes and a fresh look at principles guiding policy-making. Yet, his actions could unite industry in a way that may make life more difficult for Mr Benn when he starts persuading Mr Wilson and the appropriate Cabinet committee to publish the Green Paper that some say ought to be deep red.

The letter just sent out to all member companies and affiliated organizations is both trenchant and uncompromising. There is no mincing of words, no Adamson-style qualifications. The issue of when with the CBI is finally right out into the open. Mr Bateman declares: "I do not feel we should stand idle in the face of policies and actions which, in my opinion, endanger the whole economy and prosperity of our people."

He calls on all members to back him in moving into the realms of conflict with government, "opposing in every way possible further state ownership and persuading the public that its interests are best served by free enterprise." And Mr Bateman frankly admits members have been questioning the CBI and its arrangements for defending certain principles.

There was evident relief yesterday that Mr Bateman's call for unity had struck the right note, delayed but not too late when it comes to further negotiations with Mr Benn and

others. Yet the CBI now has to do more than rush out a series of statements and speeches. Headlines-catching phrases will be hollow unless the CBI rallies together the wiser heads within the private industry to define the private sector's role and responsibilities in a mixed economy.

This involves making a deeper contribution, with alternative ideas when there is genuine public concern, or an active body of support for a proposal with objectives that may be met another way. Industrialists must come forward more readily themselves to argue with opponents or critics, not always leaving it to CBI leaders.

They must improve the quality of CBI research—and get more out of the admittedly already hard-worked committees. If it means more money to be stumped up, industry will respond, but only if it thinks it gets value for higher subscriptions.

When Mr Benn, as he has been doing lately, sets out the sums of state aid poured into the private industry, then someone must come forward to examine what he says and argue it out. A false validity can be given to some of the things Mr Benn and others are saying when they remain unchallenged, or not resisted with conviction and consistency.

The disaffected businessmen within the CBI are pressing for a president's advisory committee. It should be set up without delay, ahead of the draft ideas for reforms that Mr Bateman promises to circulate in the autumn. The air will be heady with talk of an election and what party conferences may be saying about industrial issues, which these days dominate political debate.

There is still talk that Mr Campbell Adamson, the director-general, must go. The decision has to be his, and it seems he wants to stay for two years at Mr Bateman's shoulder. He is talented and experienced in the ways of Whitehall. It would seem unwise for the CBI to let him go, especially as he has evidently learnt much these weeks past from some of the very rank-and-file members in and around the CBI. The morale of the staff has to be considered, too.

The men and women behind the scenes servicing the committees are generally underpaid and dedicated people. They are ready to respond to new demands flowing from a reappraisal of the CBI's nine-year-old constitution.

What member-companies expect of the CBI is a powerful and representative extension of their individual efforts to run their operations well and profitably. Mr Bateman has got off to a good start by recognizing this desire. Scepticism will return, however, if he does not act fast enough to fulfil that desire.

# Finnish shipbuilders break through to Polar success

Instead of trying to compete in the world shipbuilding markets, Finland has made a name for itself by constructing very sophisticated specialized vessels. Although Finland, with its four and a half million population, ranks only about fifteenth in the international shipbuilding league, she has established herself as the builder of special purpose vessels—ro-ro ships, high speed car ferries, specialized tankers for carrying wines and gases, cable layers, ships for deep-sea exploration, and what are described as "economical ships" or floating hostels, for construction workers on Russian riverside sites.

But most important of all are the icebreakers which have earned Finnish shipbuilders, and in particular the publicly owned Wärtsilä yard in Helsinki, an international lead in icebreaker construction. Approximately half of all the world's icebreakers are Finnish-built, the remainder coming mainly from Russia, West Germany and North America.

Yesterday saw the launching at Wärtsilä's Helsinki yard of the 36,000 shaft horse power (shp) icebreaker Jermak. This massive high-built triple-screw ship, which has replaceable screw blades, is destined for Russia where it will be used in the Polar region. It is one of 11 similar vessels present on order. Two others will be delivered this year—one for Sweden and one for Poland.

Building icebreakers is a specialized technique which has led to the development of an entirely new technology since Wärtsilä launched its first 10,500 shp diesel electric-driven icebreaker in 1953.

Icebreakers for use in the Polar regions have to cut through two to three metres of ice. This is usually "old" ice which is frozen from underneath and is extremely hard. Icebreakers for Polar use have propellers at the stern only whereas those for use in waters with less hard ice, such as the Baltic, have screws in front for reverse thrust penetration and clearance.

Wärtsilä has established a special Arctic marketing and development unit employing some 20 people who concentrate on new ideas for icebreakers. New yards have also constructed the only icebreaking research centre in Europe with an "ice test tank" for model trials.

Finnish shipping experts took part in the Manhattan project in 1971 to test the possibilities of constructing icebreaking forced tankers for transporting Alaskan oil. One aspect of new icebreaking research, which has

been put to practical use by Wärtsilä, who has patented the idea, is the so-called "air bubble system". This is a method to reduce friction by blowing out compressed air through holes along the waterline. The air keeps the ice away from the hull as it is pushed down by the bow which cuts through the actual ice. So far this expertise has been applied to three container ships, two tankers and a few of the new icebreakers.

With an eye to the future Wärtsilä's development team is turning its attention to constructing raw materials being discovered and exploited in the remote areas of the Arctic. As one expert at Wärtsilä said: "You can't get the minerals out of Polar regions through a pipe like oil. You have got to send a ship in." In addition development work is going on into the construction of ships, barges, platforms and machinery for extracting minerals from beneath the ice and from the deep sea generally.

Besides icebreakers, Wärtsilä has orders for seven passenger-carrying ferries, of which five are going to Russia. One of the most recent orders is for Finland's new turbine driven ferry to operate on the Helsinki-Travemünde route. It will have a top speed of more than 30 knots and carry 1,500 passengers, 220 cars and 30 trucks. The company also had on order two giant car carriers of 4,500 car capacity which will be the biggest in the world.

Wärtsilä, whose turnover in 1972 was more than US\$98m, has merged its two yards at Helsinki and Turku into one division and an extensive modernization programme is being carried out. Since 1953 it has built 20 icebreakers and since 1970 has delivered six cruise liners to Norway.

Finland now has nine shipyards owned by four companies—Wärtsilä (2), Valmet (3), Rauma-Repola (4) and Holmings (1). Valmet has recently opened its \$US40m yard just outside Helsinki where it has a semi-automated fabrication department engaged on constructing special carriers for Russia.

During 1964-73 the Finnish shipbuilding industry has produced 492 vessels totalling 1,984,800 tons. In 1972 in terms of compensated tonnage, the average coefficient for Finnish-built ships was 1.69.

Finnish shipyards employ about 20,000 persons with another 20,000 in supporting industries representing 10 per cent of the country's total labour force. At present all the yards have full order books and further orders are likely to be handicapped by an increasingly acute labour shortage.

Michael Frenchman

## The Property and Reversionary Investment Corporation Limited

Results to 31 March	1974	1973
Profit (all investment income)	£558,650	£496,808
Taxation on investment income	£218,246	£130,296
Dividend per share (maximum permitted)	3.551p	(not comparable)
Undistributed profit	£169,438	£154,512

Points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr Alfred Rubens, FRICS

- \* Dividend covered 1.68 times and capitalised interest evenly covered by profit retained.
- \* Properties earmarked for development less than 5% of property assets.
- \* Compensation for compulsory purchase of company's properties now agreed at £3.635m most of which has been received.
- \* Properties exceed £20m in value.
- \* Quoted securities exceed £3m.
- \* Total borrowings and bank loans under £3m (including £2m debenture stock repayable 1988).
- \* Net assets per share 304p.
- \* Properties earmarked for development less than 5% of property assets.
- \* Properties still considered to be conservatively valued. They include 125,000 sq. ft. of offices which at current values would produce additional income of £700,000 per annum over next 10 years.
- \* No large increase in income expected while freeze continues but a substantial saving in interest expected during current year and company's position has never been stronger.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the Secretary of the Company at Albany House, Petty France, London SW1H 9EE.

## OFFICE AND ELECTRONIC MACHINES LIMITED

Distributors for the United Kingdom of Adler Typewriters, and other office machinery.

Results for the year ended 31st December 1973	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Turnover	9,355,420	6,473,179	4,542,028	3,948,701	3,437,442
Profit Before Tax	1,205,895	841,986	572,693	461,638	365,969
Capital Employed	3,016,991	2,439,625	1,994,931	1,816,251	1,615,400
Net Margin on Turnover	12.9%	13.0%	12.6%	11.7%	10.6%
Return on Capital Employed	40%	34.5%	28.7%	25.4%	22.7%
Net Profit per share	14.0p	11.3p	8.1p	13.3p	9.8p

\* A capitalization issue was made in 1971 of 1 share for every 1.66d.

**PROSPECTS.** 1974 has started well. All products continue satisfactory progress. Results for 1974 are expected to be better than the average for business generally. New products now becoming available should be adequate to support continued expansion thereafter.

**DISTRIBUTION.** Final Dividend 283p per share payable on 8th July 1974. Making total of 4.21p for the year. Capitalization issue of 1 share for every 2 held on the Register at 21st June 1974.

A copy of the full Report and Accounts may be obtained on request from The Secretary, Office and Electronic Machines Limited, 140-154 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1UH.

ADLER O E M

## Business Diary: Another Gaullist head rolls

continue to roll in our favour to either hard (such as Jean-Marie Schreiber) or the new President. Yesterday it was the most hard-headed exponent of Gaullism, Olivier, to be removed from Governor of the Bank

replacement by Bernard Clappier, is likely to lead to a less ideological line being taken by the French in future monetary negotiations. Worries were, along with Maurice Couve de Murville, the ex-diplomat who was for a time Prime Minister, one of the high priests of Gaullism. In France today the Gaullists are the way out, the technicians are taking over.



Olivier Wormser: a high priest of Gaullism

## Webster goes

Harry Webster, 57-year-old technical director of Austin Morris, has resigned and is leaving British Leyland at the end of the month. Webster, an engineer of immense standing in the motor industry, was the senior technical manager of the triumvirate created by Lord Stokes in 1968 to run the volume car operations of the newly merged Leyland-BMC empire. George Turnbull, managing director, and Filmer Paradise, sales director, were the others. Both resigned last year following disagreement over the reorganization of Austin Morris.

Webster will be remembered for the very successful Triumph Herald and Triumph 2000 series which he developed as chief engineer of the Coventry company. It was largely because of this success that he was moved from Triumph along with his boss, Turnbull, to restore morale at Longbridge.

His first job was to rush through the reorganization of the company then about to be launched. He has since produced the Marina and the Allegro. Further

his last night: "We are absolutely delighted to have secured a man of Harry's high standing throughout the European motor industry. His arrival will greatly strengthen our engineering team and help our push into European motor markets."

## Barratt's way

We wondered how long it would be before the petrol trade realized that the petrol crisis had given it a heaven-sent opportunity to make permanent cost savings on petrol sales. Now, thanks to men like David Barratt, managing director of Duff Morgan, British Leyland distributors in Norfolk, a campaign is getting under way to do just that.

The petrol shortage brought sharp reductions in the number of trading stamps offered, shorter opening hours and the huge give-away campaigns evaporated. Overnight the race was back to square one. What courageous individual gambles had failed to achieve was presented on a plate.

Barratt has told the Motor Agents' Association that he is determined to hold the line with single stamps, no participation in petrol company give-away promotions where the retailer has to do the bulk of the giving and no credit in excess of an agreed monthly amount. He realizes that this will be impracticable if his competitors do not follow suit but says the initial response is encouraging.

All of which may be fine for

the garage trade but what benefit will the motorist receive? Perhaps with more profit from petrol sales he can at least get his windscreen washed occasionally.

## Mackay moves

Changes of places and faces were revealed yesterday in the high echelons of Shell Chemical UK arising from the departure later this year (for an as yet undisclosed destination) of Eric Mackay, the company's managing director and chairman.

Mackay, who has been managing director for two and a half years and chairman for close on two years, will formally depart from SCUK's headquarters in the Strand at the end of August to take up an appointment outside the Shell group.

It was precisely where he is bound, Mackay for the moment is remaining tightlipped. However it is thought to be overseas and almost certainly in the chemicals business. His career so far has largely been spent in foreign parts.

It was being stressed yesterday that there was nothing sinister about the Mackay move, simply that he was wanted to move on, and at his level in Shell's chemical operations, the only in-house move would be sideways or downwards.

Taking over as chairman of the UK company will be Bill Thompson, one of the triumvirate of contributors to Shell's chemical activities and a director of SCUK. Gerard Fairclough, at present marketing director, will become managing director.



Industrial, 31.67 (34.3)  
Financial, 31.62 (5)

**Business**  
**25% off**  
**this h**

BARCO



# ANCIAL NEWS

## markets ities slip further

size determined the stock market yesterday. The disclosure that had been appointed to property company, fuelled a market that a major stock sale in financial trouble, as shares again fell. A call in Kuwait for output disturbed the close. Bargains totalled while the full figures of obvious day disclosed. However, in equities, it probably less than the comparative of a year ago. Shares had a poor day, nervous selling issues lower as the sured the chances of a rise for the sector. A Lane Fox took the down to 115p. British Town & City (231p) and Great Portland Inv & Property (p) all suffered set-backs.

Industrial, it was the rich took the brunt, reflecting market. Other internal liquid could bring forced time when genuine support is thin. Shares fell back a ICI (218p) and a were also weaker, regarded as with major port-

### Latest dividends

Company	Ord. Div.	Year	Pay date	Year's Prev
Ag (25p) Fin	3.58	3.8	5/8	6.03
Ag (25p) Int	3.55	3.25	24/7	6.06
Sp Int	1.49	1.42	28/8	3.67
males (10p) Fin	1.08	1.06	18/9	1.75
males (10p) Int	0.45	0.43	2/10	5.5
re (25p) Int	2	1.57	30/9	4.98
Sp Fin	2	0.75	6/8	1.33
states (Sp) Fin	0.88	3.73	12/7	5.24
states (Sp) Int	3.75	1.17	7/1	2.88
old (25p) Fin	3.12	2.32	3/8	3.67
old (25p) Int	3.95	3.75	16/7	14.37
ast (25p) Int	2.1	2.2	15/7	5.12
(25p) Int	3.75	3.75	—	7.49

### riefly

for 1973, £3.0m  
ble profit, £258,000  
arnings a share are  
Dividend, 3.25p

ESTATES  
profits, £628,500  
Dividend, 1.38p  
tings a share, 6.02p

ESTERN AREAS  
e agreed terms, for  
ations subjects to  
and London stock  
val.

ER HOLDINGS  
P from £11m to  
-tax profit for 1973  
74,000 to £10,000 and  
2nd (against 3.18p).

J. W. CAMERON  
After Dividend, preceding full  
year with a 25 per cent advance,  
26 weeks to March 31 show a slight  
gain from £754,000 to £775,000 in  
pre-tax profit on turnover up 12  
per cent to £3.6m. Net profit fell  
from £415,000 to £372,000 and  
earnings a share from 3.7p to 3.4p.

ALPINE SOFT DRINKS  
Pre-tax profit of £443,000  
(£346,000) on turnover of £3.27m.  
(£2.33m). Per share earnings 9.45p  
(9.25p). Total payment 7.75p against  
4p.

ANDERSON'S RUBBER  
Pre-tax profit for 1973-74, £27,000  
(£27,000). Dividend 3.25p  
(3.15p).

JAMES CROPPER  
Pre-tax profit, £317,000  
(£205,000). Total dividend, 2.52p  
(2.5p).

PRESS ASSOCIATION  
Profits, after tax, £139,846  
(£169,000). Revenues in 1973 rose  
by £263,000 to £4.5m.

GEORGE EWER  
Dividend for 1973-74 up from  
1.1p to 1.5p. Pre-tax profit,  
£500,000 (£419,000) on turnover  
£9.6m (£8.7m). Earnings a share  
2.73p (2.57p).

LEY'S FOUNDRIES  
Turnover for half year £7.93m,  
against £6.94m. Taxable profit  
£466,000 (£392,500).

ROBERTSON FOODS  
Chairman says restrictions on  
business activity will slow growth  
this year, but eating and break-  
fast cereals have widened profit  
base for future expansion.

HOVERINGHAM GRAVELS  
Higher costs bound to bring  
about appreciable cut in profits for  
half year to June 30 chairman says.  
Proposed change of name to  
Hooveringham Group.

HIGHAMS  
Turnover in second half in-  
creased to £13.9m (£11.8m) with  
pre-tax profits hitting a record  
£724,000 (£520,000).

COMBINED ENGLISH STORES  
Management accounts for first  
quarter confirm that group is still  
ahead of budget despite poorer  
trading conditions now being ex-  
perienced by carpets and furniture  
division.

MIDLAND INDUSTRIES  
Group turnover £4.37m (£3.75m);  
pre-tax profit, £265,000 (£205,000).

EMRAY-GUARDIAN MOTORS  
Company has issued 556,680  
shares as balance of consideration  
for Guardian Motors, purchased in  
1971.

BOWATER-P. DIXON  
Offer for Peter Dixon & Sons  
by Bowater now accepted by  
holders of 96.58 per cent of  
ordinary and 96.7 per cent of  
preference shares.

RECKITT (Australia)  
Unaudited results for six months  
to April 30 show sales increase of  
16.7 per cent and profits rise of  
19 per cent. Interim 4 cents against  
equivalent of 31 cents.

INCH KENNETH KAJANG  
Taxable profits for 1973 up  
from £39,500 to £150,000. Dividend,  
1.49p (0.93p).

RONEO VICKERS  
Company through its Swedish  
subsidiary has acquired Berg  
Bolinder AB, Swedish office equip-  
ment marketing company for  
£480,000.

SPENCER CLARK METAL  
Sales turnover for half year,  
£1.63m; pre-tax profit, £151,700.

EDWARD BATES & SONS  
On June 11, company bought  
10,000 shares in KCA at 96p for  
associates.

BOWTHORPE HOLDINGS  
Chairman expects final profit for  
1974 to exceed that for 1973.

R. CARTWRIGHT (HLGS)  
For a purchase price of £121,500,  
company has provisionally agreed  
to purchase whole of issued share  
capital of L & D Installations, of  
Redditch.

## Issues & Loans

### Irish loan is signed

Ireland's previously reported  
\$200m, seven-year syndicated  
loan was signed in Dublin yester-  
day. The loan, which has  
been arranged by S. G. War-  
burg, is believed to carry a  
spread of 1 per cent above  
London Eurodollar rates for the  
first three years, 1 per cent for  
the next two and 1 per cent for  
the remaining two years.

### Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

UK	100.00	99.80	99.60	99.40	99.20	99.00	98.80	98.60	98.40	98.20	98.00	97.80
FR	100.00	99.90	99.80	99.70	99.60	99.50	99.40	99.30	99.20	99.10	99.00	98.90
DE	100.00	99.95	99.90	99.85	99.80	99.75	99.70	99.65	99.60	99.55	99.50	99.45
IT	100.00	99.98	99.96	99.94	99.92	99.90	99.88	99.86	99.84	99.82	99.80	99.78
ES	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
GR	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PT	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
BE	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
NL	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
LU	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
CH	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
AT	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
SE	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
DK	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
NO	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
FI	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
IS	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
JP	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
HK	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
SG	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
TH	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
MY	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PH	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
IN	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PK	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
BD	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
NP	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
BT	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
BR	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
VE	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
CO	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PE	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
EC	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
AR	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
UY	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PR	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
DO	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
CU	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
VE	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
BO	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
PY	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
EC	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
AR	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
UY	100.00	99.99	99.98	99.97	99.96	99.95	99.94	99.93	99.92	99.91	99.90	99.89
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(continued on page 34)

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(continued on page 1)

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# Export Corridors of the World NIGERIA

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for steady and accel-  
erating growth.

albeit under different  
names.

With an estimated popu-  
lation of some 69 million (the  
results of last autumn's  
national census are still  
awaited), Nigeria is by far  
the most populous country  
in Africa. While in terms of  
income per head the country  
remains poorer than many of  
its African neighbours there  
is little doubt that Nigeria  
possesses the means — huge  
mineral resources, a large  
and diversified agricultural  
industry, and an increasingly  
wide manufacturing industry  
base — to provide the motive  
power for steady and accel-  
erating growth.

Nigeria's gross domestic  
product advanced last year  
at a rate of about 7 per cent,  
and although this was below  
the 9.6 per cent growth re-  
corded the previous year it  
compared favourably with  
pre-1970 levels. The country's  
economic growth has in  
recent years been fuelled by  
the revenue from her oil  
exports and this will con-  
tinue for some time.

The petroleum sector last  
year accounted for 83 per  
cent of Nigeria's exports  
which, including re-exports,  
amounted to N2,226.6m, com-  
pared with N1,432.2m the  
previous year, representing a  
rise of more than 55 per  
cent. Oil production in Nige-  
ria last year amounted to  
some 750 million barrels,  
which pushed the country  
into seventh place among  
world oil producers.

In the current year, Nige-  
ria, which supplies Britain  
about 12 per cent of its  
requirements, can expect  
a revenue from petroleum  
cent improvements compared  
show a sharp rise. The  
Nigerian oil, in line change  
earnings from this  
b. the policy adopted by  
sector rose to N31.5m com-  
pared with the previous year.  
ion of Petroleum Export  
Countries, was virtually  
bied last November, and at  
he beginning of this year  
raised again to \$14.69 a  
el. The higher price, and  
additional inflow of last  
s resulting from the re-  
y increased state hold-  
ie state-owned Nigerian  
al Oil Company in for-



The marina and customs sheds at Lagos—gateway to Africa's most populous country and the site of next year's second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

equipment. The increase in  
Nigeria's earnings from oil  
this year are likely to be  
more than \$7,000m.

Last year there was a  
significant recovery in  
Nigeria's traditional export  
commodities, with a 43 per  
cent improvement compared  
with 1972, and foreign ex-  
cesses of Nigerian oil, in line  
change earnings from this  
b. the policy adopted by  
sector rose to N31.5m com-  
pared with the previous year.  
ion of Petroleum Export  
Countries, was virtually  
bied last November, and at  
he beginning of this year  
raised again to \$14.69 a  
el. The higher price, and  
additional inflow of last  
s resulting from the re-  
y increased state hold-  
ie state-owned Nigerian  
al Oil Company in for-

The cocoa crop fell from  
254,000 tons to an estimated  
245,000 tons and although  
there was a slight improve-  
ment in the cotton crop, the  
textile industry faces a  
shortage which almost cer-  
tainly will mean mill clo-  
sures. The Federal Govern-  
ment has initiated measures  
to reform the marketing  
boards system for agricul-  
tural commodities and plans,  
with the state governments,  
to establish modern dairy  
and food processing indus-  
tries throughout Nigeria.

In his budget speech in  
April, General Gowon  
announced higher producer  
prices for a variety of agri-  
cultural products in an  
attempt to persuade farmers  
to plant more in future sea-

soos. Although petroleum  
provides such a formidable  
impetus to economic growth  
at present, it is recognised  
that agriculture will remain  
basic to the Nigerian econ-  
omy and its development in  
the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, apart from  
agriculture, considerable  
revenue from oil is being  
used in the development of  
a more diversified industrial  
base. Under the second de-  
velopment plan, which has  
been extended for one year  
to next April, nearly  
N3,200m will be spent on  
reconstruction and develop-  
ment, particularly in in-  
termediate industries and an  
increase in the output of  
domestic industry.

Under the third national  
plan, the guidelines for  
which were issued before  
the upheavals in the inter-  
national oil industry and the  
huge increase in oil prices,  
Nigeria will seek to achieve  
a compound annual growth  
rate of 9.8 per cent over the  
1975-80 period. Gross domes-  
tic product, according to the  
guidelines, is projected to  
rise from N8,152m in 1975  
to N11,957m by the end of  
the five-year period, with the  
main emphasis of the  
programme being placed on  
agriculture, industry, trans-  
port and education. If gdp is  
valued at constant (1962-63)  
factor costs, the average rate  
of growth during the five-  
year period is likely to be  
about 7.8 per cent.

The Government acknowl-  
edges that the objectives of  
the third plan are likely to  
be faced with difficulties  
through shortages of admin-  
istrative experience and  
technical skills. Considerable  
attention will be focused on  
export industries and what  
government planners refer  
to as "non-traditional export  
industries".

"A new attitude and  
approach to export indus-  
tries is necessary in Nige-  
ria", the planners say.  
"This country is blessed  
with a potentially large  
domestic market, a leading  
role within her cluster of  
development experience, a  
substantial bargaining lever-  
age within the world commu-  
nity and a generous endow-  
ment with human and non-  
human resources—including  
mineral oil, which is held at  
a premium in the world  
market. The call for a new  
attitude also finds justifica-  
tion from a dynamic in-  
terpretation of comparative  
advantage. This interpreta-  
tion enables a country to  
choose an area or a few  
areas in which its resources  
and efforts are concentrated  
in order to make a success  
of the venture."

The planners argue that  
Nigeria should make a major  
effort in competing with the  
advanced industrial nations  
in non-traditional industries  
such as petrochemicals, plas-  
tics, cooling systems (includ-  
ing air conditioners, fans,  
refrigeration equipment and  
compressors), simple  
machinery and equipment,  
particularly small-scale agri-  
cultural machinery, tools,  
pumps, automobile parts and  
similar items. Under the  
third plan major projects  
will be geared both to the  
home market and also to  
developing new export mar-  
kets—"beyond the  
Dahomey, Niger, Cameroun,  
Chad, Upper Volta axis—  
since experience has shown  
that projects conceived with  
only the Nigerian market in  
view have failed to satisfy  
even this market."

The guidelines foresee the  
possibility of changing from  
traditional exports—mainly  
agricultural and semi-pro-  
cessed agricultural prod-  
ucts—to non-traditional ex-  
ports. These include rubber-  
based exports, palm produce  
based exports such as feeds  
and proteins from palm ker-  
nels, cocoa cake and butter.

In addition, the Federal  
Government has said that it  
will intensify the search for  
additional mineral re-  
sources within Nigeria. Geo-  
physical surveys covering  
about half the country are  
scheduled to be completed  
within the current financial  
year, and the results of these  
surveys could well present  
Nigeria with additional  
sources of valuable foreign  
earnings and complement  
the income from oil.

For the immediate future  
the possibility of a return to  
civilian rule is the main  
issue. General Gowon indi-  
cated in 1970 that he would  
restore civilian rule by 1976  
and would allow political  
parties to emerge once more.  
Whether this will happen  
remains to be seen. Political  
manoeuvring is already  
taking place, some of the  
former politicians are busy  
in the background, and there  
are many who would like to  
see General Gowon installed  
as president on a return to  
civilian rule, with the sub-  
stantial army remaining in  
the background as a check  
on the politicians.

On the other hand there  
are those who consider that  
the recent coup in adjacent  
Niger may have served to  
remind the military that it is  
inadvisable to outstay their  
welcome—and longevity is  
not a characteristic of Afri-  
can administrations.

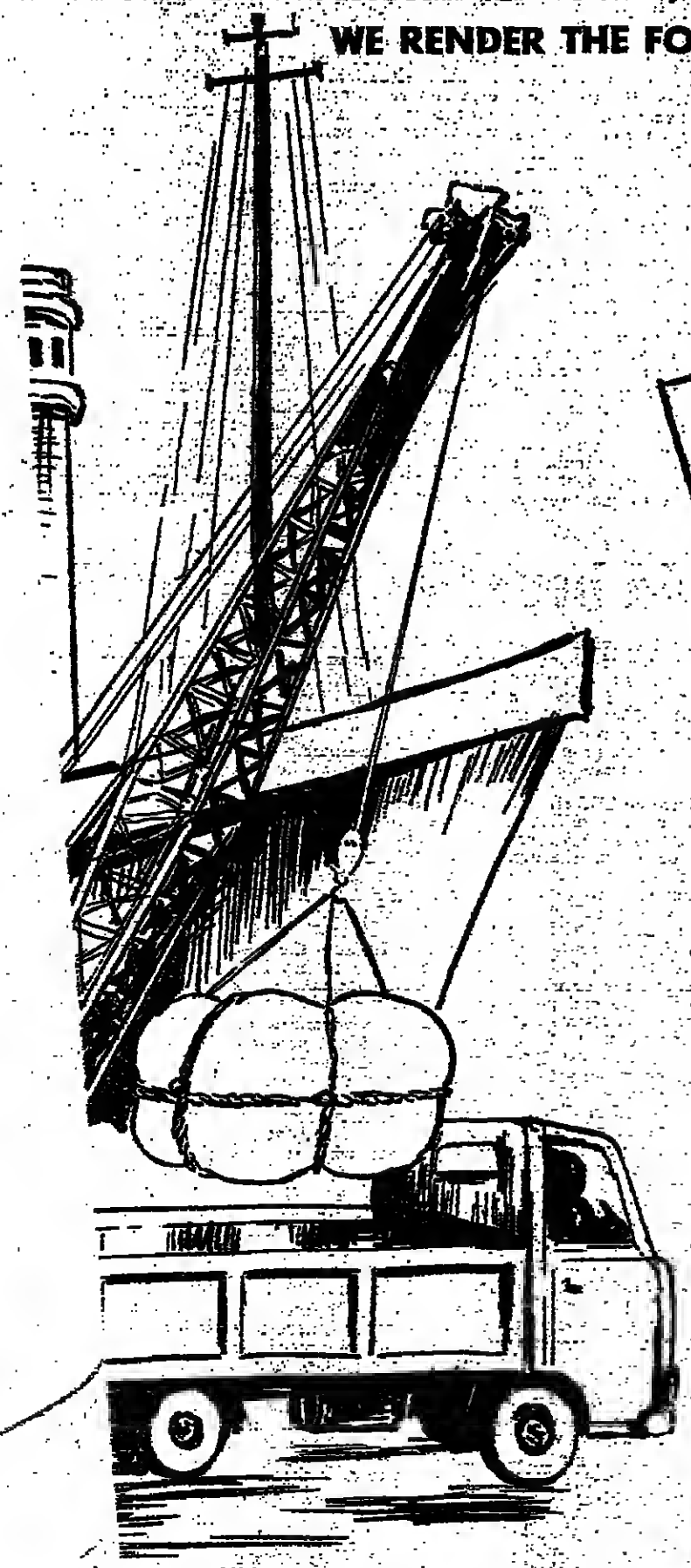
Political stability is crucial  
if Nigeria's economic aspira-  
tions are to be achieved and  
if it wishes to continue to set  
the pace in Africa's relations  
with the rest of the world  
and to attract the foreign  
investment that is still  
needed, despite the oil boom.

This is the sixth in a series  
of Special Reports on export  
corridors, which will include:

Brazil June 20  
Delaware Valley, US  
June 27  
United Kingdom July 4  
Venezuela July 11  
India July 25

The reports will be repub-  
lished as a booklet, which will  
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The primary imposition of either WAEC or the ECOWC with the ECOWC in the mindings that were formed between the E and French speaking in West Africa. A block of the market in the Lome market would certainly be a world's weight felt in the world's basic markets. Furthermore, it would be able to do so for the ECOWC and ECOWC on a much more equal



# Massive reserves of natural gas are a virtually untapped source of revenue

reserves of natural gas has been estimated at 2,223 million cu ft. In 1971, Nigerian natural gas production was estimated at 141,000 million cu ft while reserves rose from 1,700 million cu ft in 1965 to 40,000,000 million cu ft at the beginning of 1972. In view of the number of oil fields discovered since then, this total is now considered to be conservative. At that time, therefore, Nigeria accounted for about 3.4 per cent of world reserves of potentially exportable natural gas. This compares with 1.7 per cent for Canada and 0.3 per cent for Algeria and some 173 per cent for Iran.

The extent of the wastage of Nigerian natural gas can be gauged from a simple rule of thumb calculation based on a 1,000 cu ft of gas per barrel of oil produced. On the basis of a present daily Nigerian production of 2,300,000 barrels of oil some 2,300 million cu ft of gas is being flared off daily. Industries in Lagos calculate that some 98 per cent of gas reserves are flared off with only a minute 2 per cent being used either by the oil companies in their oil

exploration and production activities or through its sale to one or three customers in the Port Harcourt area.

More specifically, last October, but of a gas production of 2,223 million cu ft a day, only about 13 million cu ft was sold. During the same month, Shell BP, the major oil producing company operating in Nigeria, was estimated to have had a daily gas production of some 854 million cu ft while Gulf Oil, the second largest oil producer, had an estimated gas production level of some 363 million cu ft.

Thus with more than 2,200 million cu ft of gas being flared off daily in Nigeria it is a little surprising that the Government has not acted rather more quickly in harnessing and using such a valuable energy resource, particularly since waste on this scale is equivalent to about a third of the country's daily energy production.

Within Nigeria natural gas is piped from gas fields near by to be used to supply the power stations at Afam and Ughelli while some towns are able to use gas as a fuel source. Gas is also used by the Michelin factory and the glass industry at Port Harcourt from supplies piped from the large Apapa field.

Somewhat ironically with all the gas lurking beneath the surface, Nigeria has to import a substantial volume of liquid gas to meet the sharp rise in demand for gas for cooking and domestic purposes. This is not to say that the Government and the oil companies have been oblivious to the potential for Nigerian natural gas which is principally located in the Niger and Mid-Western states. Over the past four or five years a large number of plans have been advanced for the establishment of gas collection, liquefaction and export terminals and discussions have taken place on most of them. The indications are now that a decision on one or more plants will be forthcoming from the Federal Government before the end of the summer, based on a short list of four from areas of original dozen or so proposed projects.

In his April budget speech, General Gowon said: "To increase our export earnings from petroleum products, further consideration will be given to the various proposals already received on the construction of export-oriented refineries. In addition, studies which are being conducted into the gathering, liquefaction and export of gas as well as its conversion

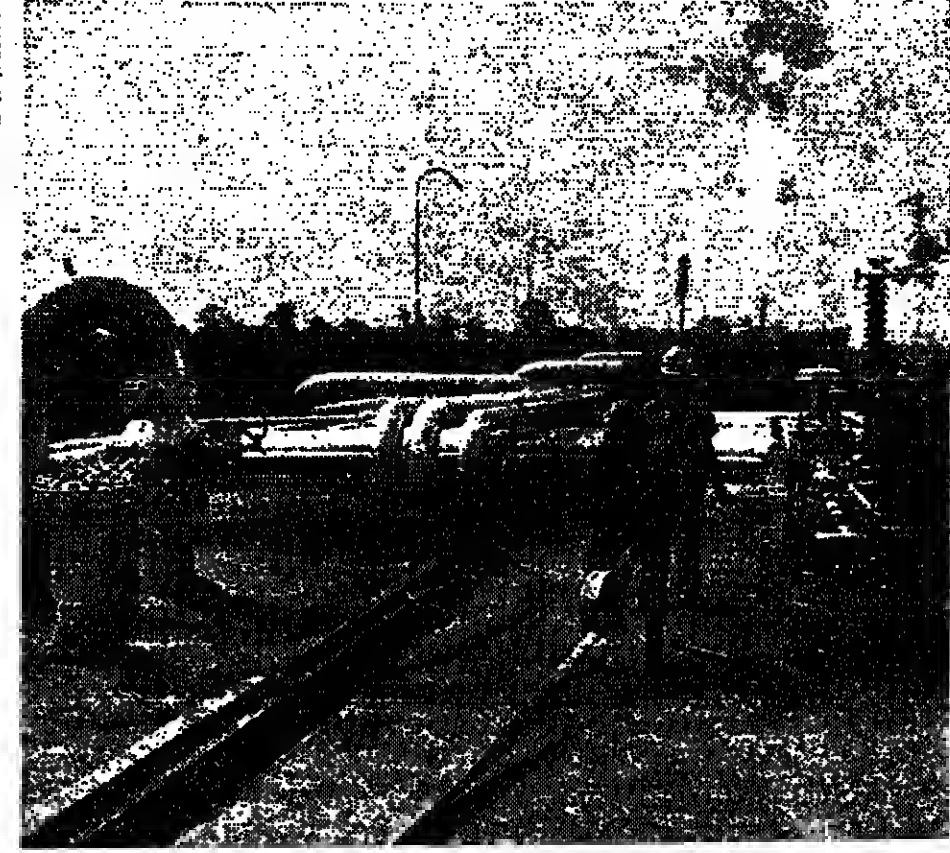
into petrochemicals have certainly been the United States. It is possible that about 20 specialized LNG carrying ships could be employed in the Nigerian gas export trade by the middle of the next decade.

Several matters have to be clarified before the projects get off the ground including the participation stake taken by the Nigerian Government although if it follows the pattern of oil participation this is expected to be 55 per cent. There is then the question of the financing of the schemes, the question of who will own or operate the ships required for the transportation of the gas and the proportion of gas to be used domestically, and the price.

There is little doubt that Nigeria could be quickly in a position of exporting more gas than it is currently producing and given early decisions on the nature and scale of the first LNG plants by the beginning of the next decade gas exports could be providing a huge additional source of revenue. At a later stage the development of export-oriented refineries will supplement this revenue and as one oilman observed, "the prospects are enormous".

Shettima Ali Monguno, the Commissioner for Mines and Power, earlier this year reaffirmed the Government's intention to construct a liquefied gas plant at a cost of N800m with a daily capacity of 1,000 million cu ft. It is understood that the four projects shortlisted by the Government are those advanced by Shell BP; Gulf; Agip-Phillips; and Teconco. Shell BP, which has recently undertaken a revision of its plans and estimates, is apparently thinking in terms of a liquefaction plant with a capacity of more than 1,000 million cu ft of gas a day probably to be located at Bonny, with the whole project including ships costing more than \$1,000m and using gas from its fields in eastern Nigeria.

Gulf's project (likely to be based at Escravos) is thought to be smaller involving an investment of more than \$500m with a plant capacity in the first phase of about 550 million cu ft of gas a day. Export markets for both projects would almost



Gas flares form the backdrop to this oil pumping station in Rivers State. Such wastage could soon cease as the search for alternative energy sources intensifies.

## census will indicate what sort of civilian government can be expected

in every five on an continent is a Lagos is the fastest growing city in Eastern Nigeria is densely populated lack Africa, and is oo the continent Johannesburg and ons. These demo facts are already what is not known is after the census n is precisely how ple live in Niger states—or exactly y live.

about the Nige as without knowi s is like describ ing match in igno he final score—but ses patterns can be ad tentative con drawn before, to the metaphor, the de is blow.

vious census was November, 1963, ed that there were Nigerians. Assum per cent growth year and making s for the ravages of war, a final figur er 70 million cou y be expected. Dr Okoa, a Nigerian expert, has pred-

icted a population of 76,700,000.

Whatever result the Central Bank computer finally comes up with, it seems likely that it will, if anything, be an undercount—scattered populations, inaccessible areas and deliberate evasions (many people regard any government statistical exercise as a preliminary to tax demands) will see to that.

It would also be as well to add that any predictions based upon the 1963 census returns could prove wildly inaccurate. That census came immediately before the first post-independence elections in 1964, and the figures were regarded by many as politically manoeuvred; they revealed that nearly 30 million people lived in the northern states, compared with 9,500,000 in the Western State and 12,300,000 in the Eastern State. Many non-northerners, boycotted the elections, in which only four million of the 15 million electorate returned to power the northern-dominated Nigerian National Alliance. The census therefore set in train the subsequent series of coups and counter-coups, over 360,000 sq miles of

territory, covering desert, scrubland, forest, swamp, and urban areas to count the population. They travelled by bus, by horse, on foot, in canoes and by helicopter, and every person they counted had an indelible ink mark put on his or her thumb to avoid multiple counting.

The census operation itself was not without its difficulties. What, for example, could more vividly illustrate the problems of urban overcrowding than the three inmates of one house in Ikorodu Road, Lagos?

Then there were the religious objections of Muslims to what many regarded as an encroachment on purdah. These were overcome by the appointment of women enumerators in northern areas, and where they were not available, Muslim women were counted, heavily veiled, in the presence of their husbands who themselves carried out the dubbing of their wives' thumbs.

Road blocks were set up to ensure that people did not move for census purposes from their place of residence to their home areas—the

point being, of course, that planners must know where people are actually living before they can begin to provide appropriate amenities. Local chiefs had asked their absent populations to return home for the purpose of the count, hoping thereby to swell future allocations. In the circumstances the count went as smoothly as could be expected, although it seems inevitable that the final figures will be challenged by one group or another; they will have to do so silently, however (as if that were possible in the most vocal society in Africa), since debate on the results has been officially banned.

What demographic patterns, useful equally to administrators, economic planners, investors, distributors and industrialists, is the census likely to reveal? Almost certainly it will emphasize the accelerating urbanization of Nigeria. Like most developing countries Nigeria in the past decade has seen an alarming urban explosion, with the apparent opportunities of the towns proving an irresistible attraction to young people in the country, frustrated by their traditional way of life

and by poor living standards. Lagos is growing at an estimated 17 per cent a year; Ibadan's population is well over a million; more than three million people live within 50 miles of Kano; in the east formerly small market towns like Onitsha, Aba, Enugu and Owerri measure their populations in hundreds of thousands, and their services creak under the weight of ever-increasing immigration from the surrounding countryside. Accurate figures on urban population will bring home the gravity of the situation, in a way that the present estimates cannot.

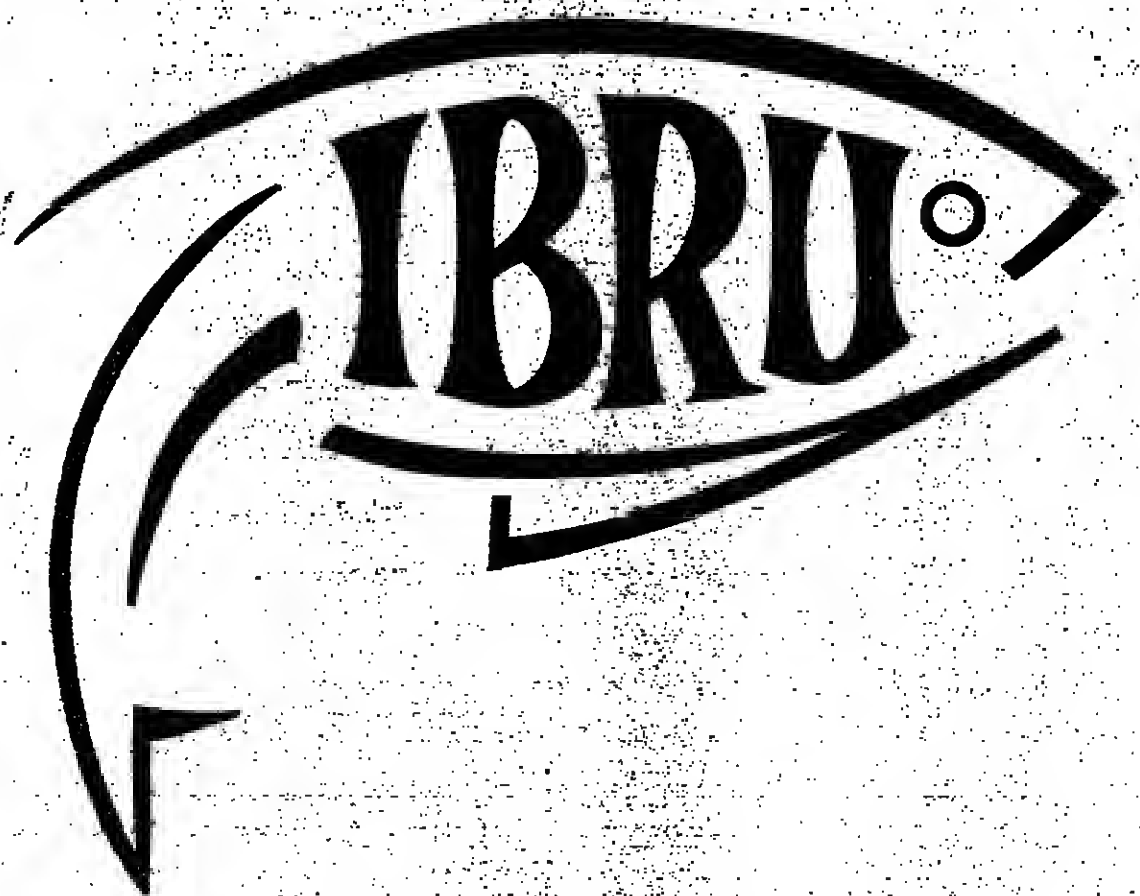
The census will also show whether, as seems likely, the Sahelian drought has resulted in a southward population drift. Economists will seize on trends such as these to determine resource allocation, siting of new industries, routes of new roads and so forth. But the majority of Nigerians will be making political calculations—and legal or not, discussing the implications of "how many?" and "where?"

A.H.



Despite the ravages of the civil war, a population total in excess of 75 million is expected in the census. Here General Gowon and his family are included in the count.

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## Drastic measures needed to revitalize agriculture

by Alan Hutchinson

Agriculture, for so long the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, has now become the poor relation of oil. In addition to what one might call the usual African disadvantages—poor soil, a conservative peasantry, government indifference, drift to the towns and a poorly conceived pricing system for export crops—it has been badly affected in recent years by the Sahelian drought.

It is little wonder, therefore, that present production of both food and cash crops is at the lowest level for more than 10 years, large imports of essential foods have been sanctioned, the export of groundnuts has been banned, and drastic short-term and long-term measures to revitalize the whole industry are being propagated.

Relief, paradoxically, has come in the form of greatly increased revenues from the export of commodities, which at N313m for 1973 were 30 per cent above the figure for the previous year. The rise is accounted for solely by worldwide prices, notably for cocoa. The "significant recovery" of export crops, to which General Gowon somewhat ambiguously referred in his budget speech, occurred not in Nigeria but in London.

The decline of agriculture has had repercussions all down the line. For example, the shipping companies have been in a quandary about the imbalance of Nigerian trade: oil wealth has enabled the country to import large quantities of capital and consumer goods, but there has been an absolute drop in the volume of produce exported. Ships which come to Lagos fully loaded leave half-empty, a situation bound eventually to have an adverse effect on shipping rates generally.

Further up the line industries dependent on Nigerian raw produce are either almost at a standstill, like the groundnut mills in the north, or are operating unprofitably, like most of the textile mills, forced by falling production to import

raw cotton at high world prices. The inability of the country to feed itself, made particularly acute in the past two years by the drought in the northern food-producing areas, has necessitated the expenditure of large amounts of foreign exchange on imports of essential foods, such as maize and rice.

Finally, the difficulties of agriculture affect directly every member of the population, whether the 30 per cent who live in the towns and complain bitterly about soaring food prices, or the farmers and their dependants.

Various theories, some credible, some not, have been put forward to explain the agricultural phenomenon: the difficulties of extending rural credit to farmers without a "paper collateral"; resistance of a conservative section of the population to change to modern methods; lack of sufficient government funds and the question of interest; water problems; soil problems; transport problems, and so on.

The one theory that takes into account sufficiently the intelligence of the farming population—which tends to be heavily concentrated in Lagos—is that successive crops have given the farmer little incentive to increase, or even maintain, levels of production. With his intelligence held in such low esteem in official circles he has either smuggled his produce to countries where he can get a reasonable return for his labours or he simply reverts to subsistence farming.

In the days of civilian politics producer prices were set at a low rate by the government, and the difference between the price paid to farmers and the realized price to finance other economic and sometimes political objectives. After the introduction of military rule variations on this theme were tried, with little success, until a year ago when General Gowon decided that the Federal Government would determine the prices and make up any loss of revenue to states by subsidies.

A tacit acknowledgment that the first year's sums were wrong was made in this year's March budget, when all producer prices for commodities were increased, and some, such as for groundnuts, nearly doubled. The new prices were announced early to encourage farmers

to plant more in the present season, so it will be at least a year before the Government is able to determine whether the "new deal" has had any effect.

It is instructive to look at one crop, groundnuts, to see precisely what effects a poor producer price has on the farmer, government revenues and industry. Last season the price for groundnuts, of which Nigeria was once the world's greatest exporter, was N94 a ton (it is N165 this year). The farmers knew that this was unrealistic, and as a result many did not bother to plant groundnuts, preferring to plant food crops for their own use, a wise precaution in view of the drought.

Of the rest many who harvested a crop refused to sell at the producer price to the licensed buying agents, who act as buyers and collectors for the marketing board. Thus in November, at the end of the harvesting season, there were no groundnuts there would be at least 30,000 tons. Some agents who did manage to persuade farmers to part with their production either hoarded the nuts or, like many of the farmers, smuggled them across the border to Nigeria, where a price of N200 a ton could be obtained without argument.

The Federal Government thus forfeited the chance of collecting export tax revenue on a considerable part of the Nigerian crop (in the event there was no tax to collect because in January the ban was placed on the export of groundnuts); an even more galling fact is that Nigeria has to handle through its railway and port system the ostensibly "Niger" groundnut crop.

The drought augmented the catastrophe, with some farmers eating their crop; others, in desperation, selling to produce oil for profit. The result of all this was that Nigeria exported no groundnuts and the many oil mills in the north were unable to meet their commitments; if all are to operate, probably a crop of about a million tons is needed.

A similar pattern can be discerned, with variations, in the other main cash crops. A poor producer price for cocoa results in the smuggling of cocoa across the border to Dahomey. Palm oil production has been on the decline since the civil war disrupted the operation of the big estates in the east. Cotton production, too, has



Mechanization helps to overcome the difficulties of agricultural production.

declined, partly through the drought and partly through a depressed producer price, which has been increased by 50 per cent in the current season.

Measures are slowly being taken both on the state and the federal levels to correct the situation. Recurrent export duties on agricultural exports, which were 15-20 per cent in the 1974-75 budget, are being reduced to 10 per cent. The N104m allocated to agriculture in the capital expenditure budget is being used to buy foreign machinery.

The long-term way to achieve greater food production is, probably, the large-scale project as the Government has indicated. The Federal Government will develop water resources and from now on go into large-scale agricultural production in full force.

General Gowon announced in the budget that the Federal Government will improve existing storage facilities so as to reduce wastage.

It is a territory fraught with conflict, for large-scale production implies capital intensive production, whereas the need is to tap the labour force back into agriculture and reverse the drift from the rural areas into the towns. Certain quarters, too, are openly sceptical about the ability of the Government to do that.

Smaller farmers are catered for in four ways by the "National Agricultural Extension Campaign," which distributes seed, fertilizers and advice. This scheme is to be extended to the rest of the country soon.

Credit is being tackled by the newly established Nigerian Agricultural Bank, which is to be a rural credit bank, providing credit to small farmers. The bank is to be a rural credit bank, providing credit to small farmers. The bank is to be a rural credit bank, providing credit to small farmers.

However, an interesting experiment is being conducted by the Mid-Western State Government at Agbide, where 5,000 acres of bush have been cleared for the cultivation of rice and maize by a German firm of agricultural machinery.

The company now manages the farm, and is responsible for machinery, maintenance, and so on. In this way foreign skill is used, bureaucratic delays are reduced, and the state profits from large-scale production methods. Similar schemes might be tried for wheat production and cattle ranching in the north.

As part of its efforts to increase food production the Government has established the Sokoto-Rima Valley Development Authority and the Chad-Basin Authority to sponsor a 150m agricultural scheme in the north.

The minimum wages were set at four or five times as much as in the past. In addition, the towns provide 24,000 tons of rice, 30,000 tons of long-staple cotton, a year, a similar scheme is being considered for the Middle Belt.

During the next plan period the Government and the World Bank are jointly to sponsor a 150m agricultural scheme in the north-east.

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## Drought restricts textile production

by Peter Hill

Nigeria's textile industry is facing probably its worst year since it was first established on a modern basis in the mid-1950s. Already this year a number of the larger mills have been obliged to put workers on short-time working, to close down production temporarily and in other cases permanently.

The present difficulties stem from the effects of the drought in the northern states that have dramatically reduced the cotton crop over the past three years (although there are other problems). The prospects for the industry—which is the second largest employer of labour in Nigeria after agriculture—in the short term are not encouraging.

Towards the end of April Mr. Mojisola Pinheiro, managing director of the Textile Mills Development Corporation, described the position as "very serious and unfortunate" when he announced that the company was halting production and sending its workers on compulsory leave because of the shortage of cotton lint. The closures and production cut-backs by many companies prompted the Nigerian Textile, Garment and General Workers Union to urge the Federal Government to import cotton lint for sale at reasonable prices to the mills.

Mr. Gordon Lovelady, financial director of Kaduna Textile Mills, one of the largest producers of cotton fabrics in Nigeria, told me that the sources of local cotton would dry up by the end of July. This is the first year that the cotton crop has been inadequate to meet local demand.

The average annual requirement of the Nigerian industry, when all the major production units are running at capacity, is estimated at 400,000 bales. However, the requirement this year was put at 320,000 bales. In fact the supply is likely to be of the order of 150,000 bales and companies are now faced with importing cotton to carry them through the summer—and this means paying considerably higher prices.

This is a significant change from the situation only a few years ago. Before the drought in the domestic textile industry led to increased demand, cotton formed one of the country's important export crops. Production of seed cotton rose from 120,000 tons in 1965-66 to 160,000 tons in 1968-69 and reached a peak of 275,000 tons in 1969-70. Since then it has steadily declined to 115,000 tons in 1970-71 and to 111,000 tons in 1972.

Over the same period, however, there was a steady

expansion of the cotton textile industry's output. The index of the industry's output (1965 equals 100) rose from 172 in 1965 to 274 in 1969 and, despite a fall to 304 in 1971 from 315 the year a number of the larger mills have been obliged to put workers on short-time working, to close down production temporarily and in other cases permanently.

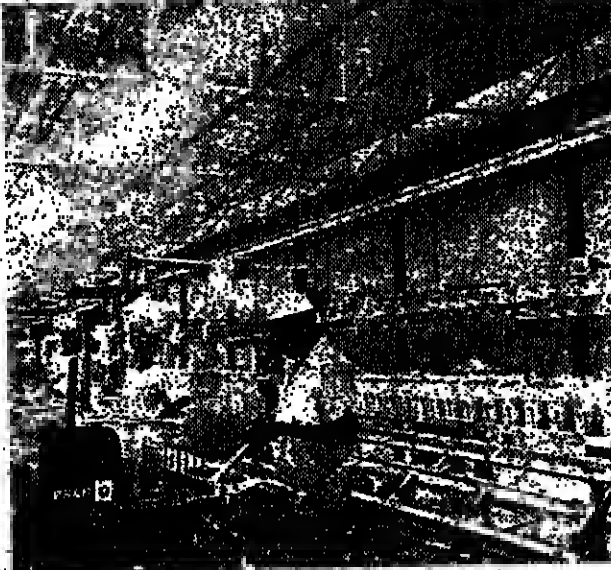
The recovery in production in 1972 followed the introduction of measures to protect the industry against competition from imported textiles. In the 1973-74 federal budget higher duties were imposed on imports and there was also a reduction in the tariff imposed on long staple cottons.

The textile industry is centred primarily in the north with the greatest concentration of large production units in Kaduna, although there is further concentration in the south, in the Ilesha area near Lagos. The development of the industry follows a decision by the Government of northern Nigeria in 1955 to set up a local industry using locally grown cotton to produce fabrics as a substitute for the 200 million sq yds of fabric that was being imported at that time. It is estimated that some 35,000 workers are employed by the industry, while many thousands more are engaged in the making-up trade to which remains very much a cottage industry.

Apart from Kaduna Textile Mills, other major companies include Nigerian Textile Mills, Arewa Textiles, United Nigerian Textiles, Norspin and Norrex. There are other mills in the Kano area and at Ombisa, Aba and Ilesha. The vast majority of production is devoted to cotton fabrics in the form of grey-floths and printed fabrics mainly for the domestic market, and there has been growing use of synthetic fibres, which at present have to be imported.

The industry's present difficulties over shortages of cotton have been compounded by the activities of the Nigeria Produce Marketing Company which became the agency responsible for the sale of raw cotton to the producers in November last year. Previous producers bought from the Northern States Marketing Board.

Mill executives have been openly critical of the NPMC and claim that unnecessary delays are being caused by the purchasing processes now in operation. For two months the NPMC introduced a two-tier pricing structure in an effort to conserve domestic stocks with a price of 31 kobo per lb being charged for cotton lint for supplying the domestic market and 60 kobo for cotton sold to firms producing for both domestic and export markets.



In spite of reductions in the textile industry this factory at Kano supplying hand and machine knitting yarns expects to increase its work force.

Because of market saturation two years ago many firms stepped up their levels of exports and the effect of the higher NPMC prices on those firms created serious difficulties. As it is, these firms that are now obliged to seek cotton from overseas if they are to maintain production and employment will have to import at a price of 45 kobo per lb (carriage, insurance and freight included) at Apapa.

In an effort to stimulate farmers to plant more cotton this year and in the future, the Federal Government announced in the budget this year that seed cotton grade 1 would be bought at 9 kobo a lb compared with the previous price of 6 kobo.

In the north, planting takes place between June and August with picking between November and February but the efficacy of this measure is dictated by the level of rainfall during the current rainy season which has been far from wet.

Meanwhile, although industry representatives predictably do not accept the accusation, Nigerian consumers are critical of the industry's products, claiming that prices are high and quality is poor. They have shown a distinct preference in many areas for imported textile goods.

There is a huge trade in smuggled textiles—probably running into millions of yards annually—which enter the Nigerian market from its neighbours, principally Dahomey and Niger across the extensive frontiers. This, the industry claims, must reduce the ability of the industry to perform effectively.

While there have been discussions between governments and all are agreed

that measures must be implemented to reduce the flow of illegally-imported goods, the sheer physical difficulty of patrolling the frontiers effectively is a daunting prospect.

Industry executives and the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers' Association have been pressing the Federal Government to remove excise duty on the import of cotton which, in the absence of an adequate domestic cotton crop would help the Nigerian industry to obtain supplies and also counter the level of imports.

What of the future? Mr. Gordon Lovelady, K.T.M. considers that with its huge population and increased wealth the Nigerian markets for the textile industry investment in new capacity has slowed down and there is now more than enough capacity to meet the country's needs.

If the emphasis is placed on quality, Mr. Lovelady sees a considerable export trade developing on a worldwide scale, particularly in cotton fabrics. At government level there are moves to promote the level of exports in a number of areas and a prime area is textiles—"if we can produce at the right quality and price then we can export to anywhere in the world," Mr. Lovelady says.

More immediately, however, the industry is anxious to obtain details of the findings of two recent feasibility studies on the future of the industry. One was undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Industries and the other by a firm of American management consultants. Until it is known what policy decisions are likely to flow from these two investigations, medium and long-term planning is made difficult.

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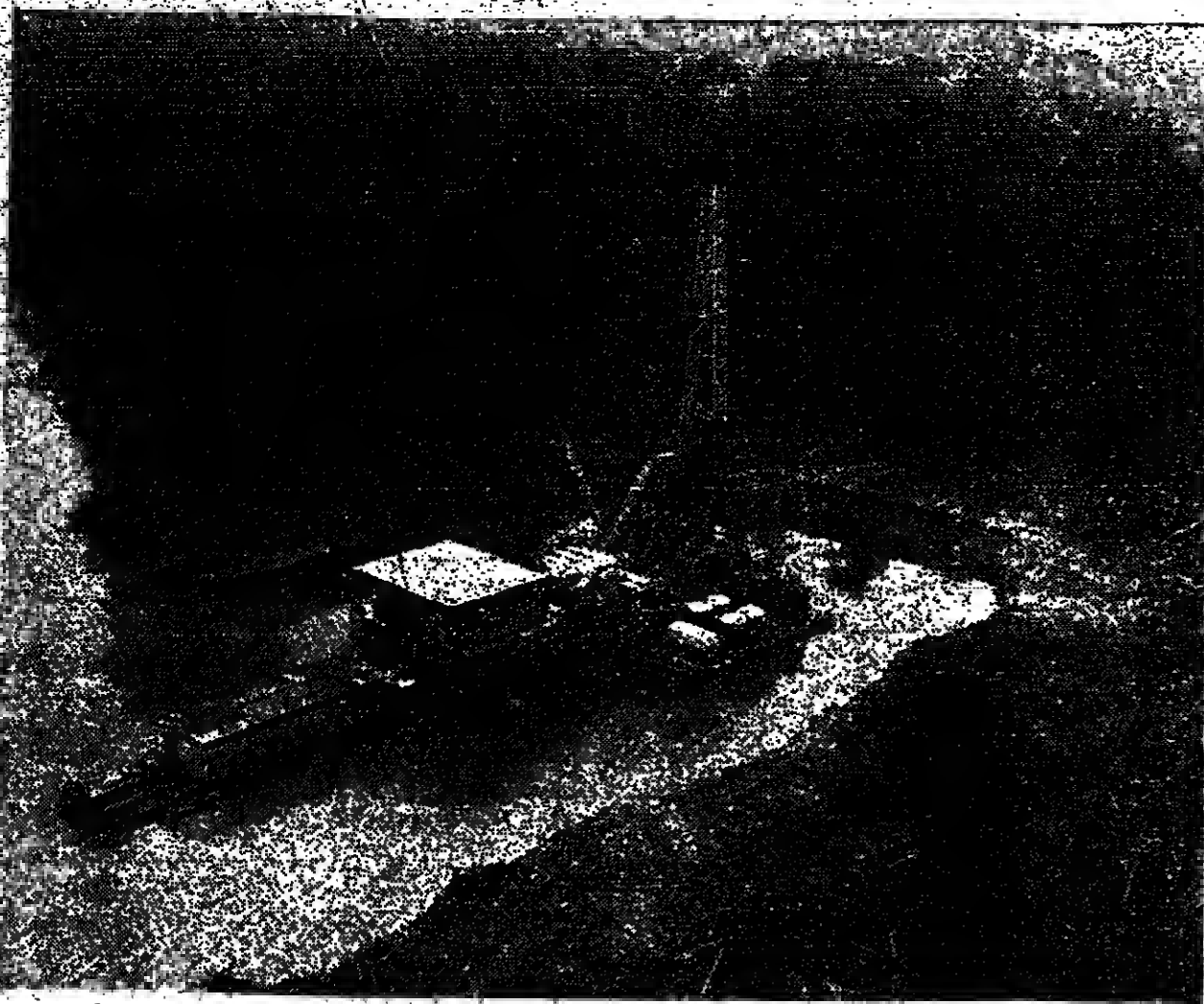
# Oil revenue 'the most important engine of growth' but reserves are limited

In the Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt there is a casino and a library of one-arm bandits. There is also a bar for the foreigner, but the records of country and western music and a clientele as cosmopolitan as anywhere in the world. Port Harcourt, now almost totally recovered from the ravages of the civil war (although some of the scars remain), is a boom town, the hub of the oil industry. The government-owned hotel is the cocoon into which the oil men withdraw after their stint on the oil rigs and production platforms in the swamps of the Niger delta or in the shallow waters offshore.

It is Nigeria's virtually sulphur-free oil that has attracted the big oil companies to the Delta region and which in turn has provided Africa's most populous country with what General Yakubu Gowon described in his April budget speech as its "most important engine of growth". Oil, and the revenue which flows from it to the Federal Government coffers, is transforming the Nigerian economy, although the Government and the people recognize that oil reserves are finite and that the changes which are being forced on the country must be carefully evaluated.

Nigeria's oil industry has developed to a point where it is now challenging the much longer established oil-producing nations of the Middle East. The export of crude oil last year represented some 83 per cent of the total value of Nigeria's exports which amounted to \$2,226.6m while total production of oil in 1973 amounted to an estimated 1.1 million barrels, sufficient to place the country seventh in the league table of the world's leading oil producers.

Oil therefore exerts, and will continue to exert, an enormous influence on the rate and scope of Nigeria's development for a considerable period—a period when the country is undergoing dramatic changes in terms of greater industrialization and modernization of its agricultural industry which in the longer term will be of even greater importance.



Nigeria's oil industry has developed to a point where it is challenging the much longer established oil producing nations of the Middle East. An oil rig site in Rivers State where (right) Nigerian crewmen are handling drilling equipment.



Modest increase in production

Nigerian oil production rose steadily from nothing in 1957 to 116,000 barrels 10 years later and has risen even more dramatically since the end of the civil war in 1970 when production amounted to 395,800,000 barrels. The following year production totalled 538,900,000 barrels and in 1972 665,300,000 barrels.

Early last year the Federal Government indicated that it would seek to lift production by 20 per cent by the end of the year. Production did in fact exceed two million barrels a day for the first time during August and in the final quarter of last year was running at about 2,000,000 barrels daily. In its budget speech at the beginning of April General Gowon stated that there

Greater flow of funds

On October 20 last year Nigeria lifted the official posted or tax reference price for 34° gravity oil to \$8.310 per barrel from \$4.287. Then from the beginning of this year the posted price was again lifted to \$14.691 per barrel initially for the first quarter of the year and subject to currency and freight fluctuations.

As a result of the latest price increase it has been calculated that total Nigerian oil revenues in the current year will amount to between \$7,000m and \$8,000m which, as *Newsweek* noted in March, is about 16 times the sum that the World Bank advances every year to the entire African continent.

This is an enormous sum and has important implications for the Federal Government and the way in

which the substantially increased flow of funds is distributed among the 12 states of the federation.

At the same time Nigeria has been taking an increasing interest in the activities of the oil companies operating both on and offshore concessions through the Nigerian National Oil Company which was established in April 1971. It has been the NNOC, working to a large extent under the authority of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Power, which has promoted increased Nigerian participation in the oil industry with the ultimate aim of gaining complete control of the industry.

There are about half a dozen major producing groups operating in Nigeria led by Shell-BP, which accounts for about two thirds of production, and followed by Gulf, Mobil, Agip/Phillips, Sotrap and Texaco. Soon after its formation NNOC took a 33 per cent interest in the activities of Agip/Phillips and later a 35 per cent stake in Sotrap.

In June last year the NNOC negotiated a 35 per cent participation stake in Shell-BP which was backed to the beginning of April, 1973, while the agreement also provided for NNOC to lift its stake to 51 per cent by 1982. The agreement also meant that a proportion of the Government's crude oil would be sold to Shell-BP as buy-back oil while the state oil company would also give its partner "commercial opportunity

to buy additional quantities.

At about the same time the Government negotiated a production sharing contract with Ashland Oil under which, if oil was discovered in commercial quantities, Ashland would be able to recover costs including royalties and tax payments from a part of production. The agreement also provided that the balance of production up to 50,000 barrels a day would be shared, with

the national oil undertaking taking 65 per cent and Ashland 35 per cent while the NNOC would take 70 per cent of production above the 50,000 barrels a day level.

The Government also negotiated a 51 per cent participation stake in the activities of Tenneco, Deminor/Niger Oil (which in May struck oil offshore), Delta Pan Ocean, Japanese Petroleum (which has made a number of successful

strikes), Occidental, and Henry Stephens (a Nigerian private sector undertaking). Most of those engaged in Nigeria and at the same time was expected to be followed by similar deals with Gulf, Mobil and Texaco, but despite protracted negotiations these failed to materialize. But early last month it emerged that the Nigerian Government, following its policy of gaining a greater stake in oil exploration and a first option basis of \$13.25

a barrel with the rest of the oil being marketed directly by the Government. Since the producing companies appear to have exercised the first option for the second quarter they will have access to about 86 per cent of overall Nigerian output while it is estimated that the Government will have access to about 330,000 barrels daily for direct marketing this year.

P.H.

## New refineries will cut imports

Although Nigerian oil production has increased sharply over the past four years and Nigeria now ranks among the leading oil-exporting nations of the world, it is faced with a growing shortfall in the supply of domestically produced refined oil products. Nigeria is obliged at present to import about 20 per cent of its refined products requirements, mostly from Europe, to meet growing domestic demand.

Over the 1963-73 period demand for refined products has been growing at an annual rate of about 9 per cent. Nigeria's only refinery, the Alsea-Eleme, near Port Harcourt, has a daily maximum throughput of about

60,000 barrels a day and is unable to meet the national requirements. Commissioned in 1965, the Alsea-Eleme refinery is operated by the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Company (60 per cent) and Shell and BP (each with 20 per cent). Plans for expansion and other difficulties mean that the volume of imports has had to be increased substantially.

In an attempt to reduce the drain on foreign exchange involved in the import of refined products the Government has announced that it is to build two new refineries. The first will be at Warri in the Mid-West State and the second at Kaduna, which will serve the northern region.

Under the original plans Kaduna refinery is geared

not only to the Federal Government's plans for achieving a greater dispersal of heavy industry but also to the possibility of exporting refined products to Nigeria's neighbours, notably Niger and other countries which adjoin the northern borders.

General Gowon referred earlier this year to the construction of export-oriented refineries though it is not clear at this stage where these will be or what capacities are planned. However, if consumption follows the pattern of the past decade it seems likely that when the Warri refinery is operating at its planned full capacity, Nigeria is almost certainly going to be self-sufficient in refined products. Depending on the rate at which industrial development takes place in the northern regions, the Kaduna refinery therefore could well export a proportion of its production.

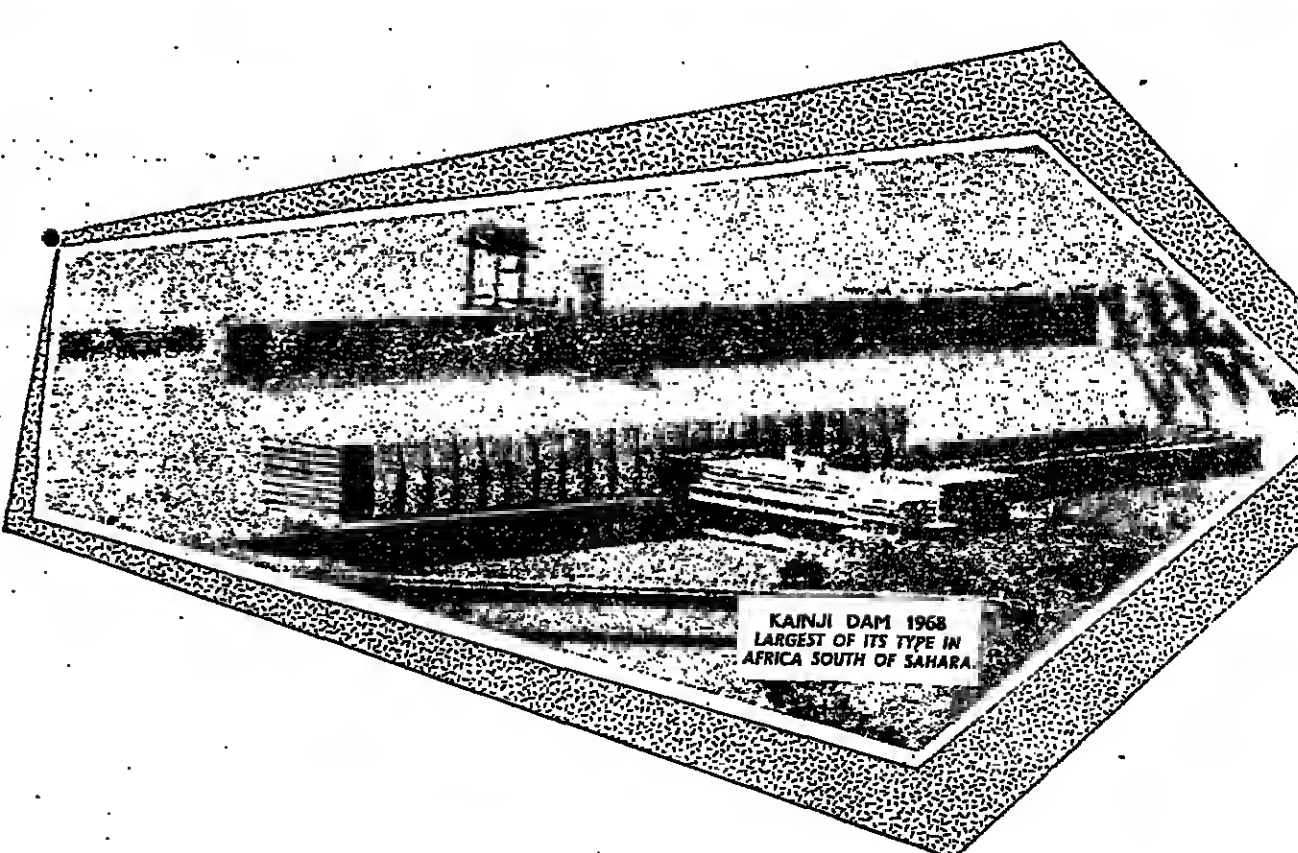
A study carried out at the beginning of this year by the Transport Planning Unit of the Federal Ministry of Transport into the potential for pipeline transport concluded that it would be uneconomic to build a pipeline from Port Harcourt to Kaduna for refined products in advance of a refinery being built in the North.

The study also looked at the possibility of a pipeline to link the groundnut producing areas of the north with either Port Harcourt or Lagos. On the basis of present rates of production of groundnuts and groundnut oil, the construction of a pipeline to serve the southern part of Nigeria and for export was considered uneconomic.

However, the report said that if production returned to levels of before 1969 and the presently available oil processing capacity of 400,000 tons a year was fully used a groundnut oil pipeline might become "economically desirable". It would require a throughput of between 200,000 and 300,000 tons before it was competitive with either road or rail haulage.

P.H.

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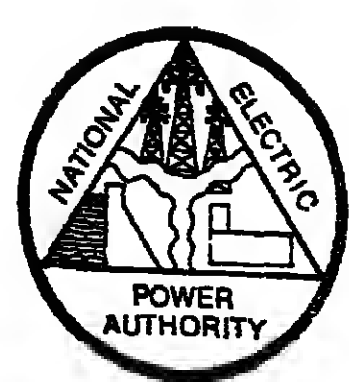


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# Nigeria



1. Road development is a priority programme. The Federal and State governments will spend about £166,294 million on road development during the current Plan period. Picture above shows part of an elevated super highway complex under construction.

2. (Below) Yards of textile rolling off a machine. There are many textile mills producing various types of clothing materials all over Nigeria.



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## SOUND PROGRESS DEVELOPMENT

NIGERIA'S continued advancement in economic and social activities is buttressed by national stability and a general determination to ensure the essential co-ordination of resources, both human and material.

The main pillars of this concerted effort of national construction were highlighted by the Head of the Federal Military Government, General Yakubu Gowon (the 1973/74 Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity) in his budget statement earlier this year. His theme was the upliftment of the people's quality of life through deliberate measures directed towards minimising the burdens of rising prices.

In announcing anti-inflationary measures, he declared that "Government would utilise the increased revenue earnings from petroleum to substitute for traditional revenues from duties on local industries and, in addition, contain imported inflation within limits. Import and excise duties on goods affected have been reduced."

Increased housing construction is being facilitated by lower costs, both of materials and equipment.

To meet food requirements, food items previously restricted are now permitted entry and transportation problems have been eased substantially by a national price level for petroleum products and cheaper vehicles through reduced costs.

A significant boost for rural advancement is the increase in producer prices payable for cash crops. These measures for groundnuts, cocoa, cotton, coffee, palm oil and kernels, copra, bean seed, soya-beans, are designed to provide incentives for farmers. To assist farmers to deal with problems of capital, the Federal Government has established an Agricultural Bank, which has given out N4.6 million (about £3 million) already.

A deliberate Government policy kept production at just over 2 million barrels per day in 1973/74, as Nigeria did not wish to take undue advantage of the disturbed situation in the world petroleum industry. Efforts will continue to ensure that Government intervenes meaningfully and effectively in the Nigerian petroleum industry. This year, this objective will be facilitated by Government's involvement with petroleum marketing and servicing. The main goal of participation in petroleum exploration and production has been largely achieved by majority shareholding in the ownership of major companies in this field by Government.

An important project for accelerating Nigerian technical input to the national petroleum industry is the establishment of a Petroleum Training Institute at Warri, a main centre of the oil production, where a refinery is being constructed. (The second new refinery will be built at Kaduna).

The wastage of gas in the oil fields, where about 2,000 million cubic feet was flared daily last year amounted to over N500 million (about £300 million). It is hoped this year, recent studies of the collection, liquefaction and export of gas as well as its conversion into petroleum chemicals will enable the establishment of a plant for the liquefaction of natural gas.

When the dam is built, water released will flow all the year round into the river more than 70 miles downstream. This means permanent water supply for the people and livestock living not only in the vicinity of the reservoir but also for those living along the river bank for a considerable distance downstream.

The project will also make it possible for farmers in the area to harvest two or three crops in a year.

It will create job opportunities for more than 10,000 workers in the flour and rice mills and the sugar and tomato and meat processing factories which will be sited in the project area.

The area will also have electricity from the hydro-electric power from the dam. The benefits of all these to the local community are obvious.

Projects, which will be undertaken by these authorities will mean more than containing droughts (and floods). Their main functions include:

- (i) the exploitation of underground water resources by sinking bore holes
- (ii) the construction of dams for irrigation and flood control purposes

(iii) the development of large-scale mechanized farming to increase the production of both food and industrial crops

(iv) the control of soil erosion and desert encroachment through afforestation and other means.

The Chad Basin Development Authority is executing the first phase of the South Chad irrigation project covering 40,000 acres at a cost of N20 million. This project will be expanded to cover 100,000 acres in the near development plan period.

On January 30, this year, the foundation stone of the Bakolori Dam and Irrigation Project was laid. This is being handled by the Sokoto-Rima Basin Authority, whose immediate task is the execution of the project which will cost N110 million to complete and is the largest single agricultural project of its kind so far approved by government.

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The first results, were not very encouraging, but more recently, there have been some spectacular developments in the course of the Chad Basin Development Authority's investigations. High grade iron ore deposits have been identified particularly at Ilkpo, Agbaja, Shikoko and Ajokuta in Kwara State.

Also, drilling work on coal deposits in the Lafia area of Benue-Plateau State indicated that coal of high quality exists in that area.

In the light of these developments, the Federal Government has decided that the first national steel complex, based on local materials, should be sited

between Ajokuta and Lokorin in Kwara State.

Although implementation of the first project will necessarily take some time, the Federal Government recognises the desirability of starting, as soon as possible, preliminary work on a second plant based on the direct reduction method which would make good use of Nigeria's abundance of natural gas.

In addition, the machinery for distributing electric power is being developed to facilitate transmission and ensure uninterrupted supply.

Efforts are continuing for the establishment of the iron and steel complex in association with the Government and General Gowon's State Steel in the country last month has advanced the project.

Establishment of an iron and steel complex is part of the 1974 National Development Plan, but implementation of the project had been suitably delayed by a number of time-consuming but essential studies and preliminary work, which must precede actual implementation.

Extensive geological surveys of the whole country in the search for iron ore of sufficiently high quality has had to be commissioned; for instance, so that project design and location may be appropriately oriented, or locally produced, or imported raw materials at the best prices.

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### INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMME

By the end of 1975, the two (Fiat and Volkswagen) passenger car assembly plants at Kaduna and Lagos respectively, will be in production and should lead to further reductions in the price of vehicles.

Plans are in hand for the assembly of commercial vehicles in Nigeria and the selection of technical partners will be made shortly.

Two other main industries are concerned with the production of phosphate fertilisers at Kaduna and at Sapele (Midwest) and Ilesha (West) this year.

Another project for the production of sugar has been launched in Kaduna (North-West) with Taka and Lyle (Nigeria) Limited as technical partners.

### ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Road Development is one of the priority programmes in Nigeria. The Federal Government is executing a road programme of over N340 million. This amount does not include cost of road projects by State Governments.

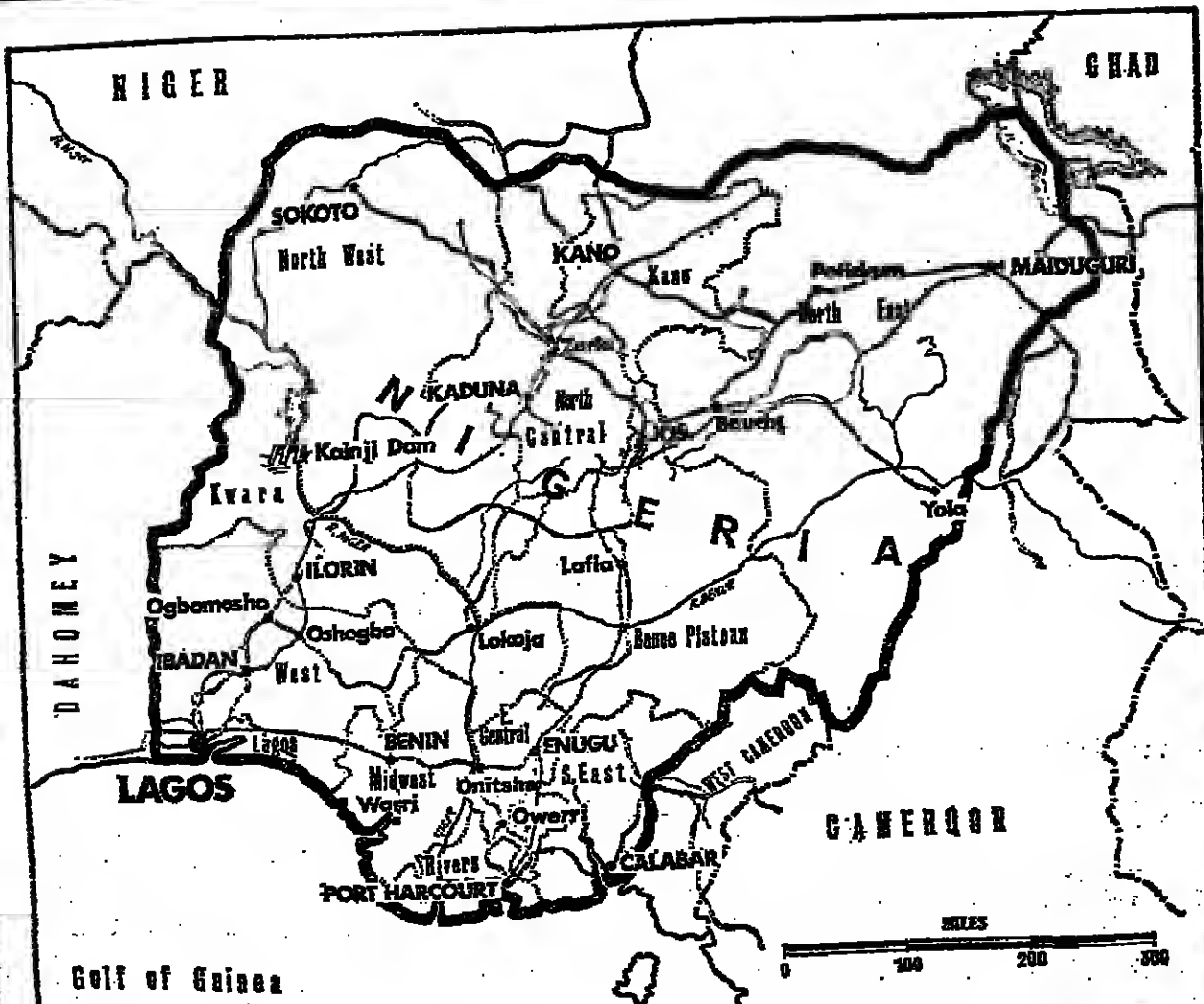
Last month alone, the Federal Government awarded contracts worth N40,104,345.70. One of these is for the construction of the Maiduguri-Gambaru road (N25,345,856.92), which will cover nearly 100 miles. The other two are for the Little Gombe-Jimeta road. Projects already completed include the N23,698 million Apapa road complex.

### THE ROLE OF PETROLEUM

The principal engine of economic growth is petroleum. As an oil-producing country, Nigeria has benefited from the increase in the price of petroleum.

### SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY

Projects for the rehabilitation of electricity supply in war-affected areas have been completed and action is in hand for the improvement and expansion of generating



### CURRENT FEDERAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Conversion Factor £1 = N.665  
(£ Sterling to Naira)

The Federal Government Capital Expenditure for 1974-75 is estimated as N1,638 million. The expenditure will be financed from an estimated contribution from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of N1,573 million and external loans totalling N65 million and past government savings.

The Capital Estimates provide N104 million for agriculture and other primary production, N99.8 million for Trade and Industry, N196 million for Electricity and Fuel, N226.2 million for Land transport system, N15.5 million for Water transport system, N41.2 million for Air transport system, N25.5 million for Communications, N24 million for Water Supply, N212.5 million for Education, N21 million for Health, N199.8 million for Town and Country Planning, N5.3 million for Labour and Social Welfare, N38.9 million for Information, N31.2 million for Police, N58.75 million for General Administration and N59.4 million for Financial obligations.

The Capital Estimates provide N104 million for agriculture and other primary production, N99.8 million for Trade and Industry, N196 million for Electricity and Fuel, N226.2 million for Land transport system, N15.5 million for Water transport system, N41.2 million for Air transport system, N25.5 million for Communications, N24 million for Water Supply, N212.5 million for Education, N21 million for Health, N199.8 million for Town and Country Planning, N5.3 million for Labour and Social Welfare, N38.9 million for Information, N31.2 million for Police, N58.75 million for General Administration and N59.4 million for Financial obligations.



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# Federal Government of Nigeria

## NATIONAL F NIGERIA



# Nigeria

Gembe-Yola road, Benin road, phase 1 to Kari road, Benin road and the Sokoto road (linking Nigeria). Some of the main part of the Inter-African Highway.

grammes for the production of teaching staff will commence this September.

rate of growth of exports (at about 35%) is much less than the rate of growth of imports (at over 25%). So that the increase in the import bill is more than offset by the increase in export earnings. The net effect is a substantial increase in visible trade balance from N41.4 million in 1972 to N392.5 million in 1973.

Federal Ministry of Finance for the public sector. The new credit guidelines for capital goods will be more liberal and flexible in application.

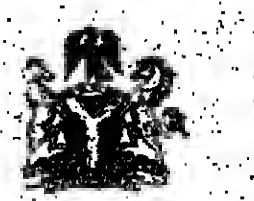
merchandise and others will be considered as maxima. The minimum proportion of each bank's loans and advances to be granted to Nigerians in each month will be retained at 40 per cent. The requirement regarding the composition of specified liquid assets will be maintained as in 1973-74. The list of short-term assets will be expanded to include any money-market instruments that may be issued by the Central Bank.

### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION (£1 = N665)

For the 1974-75 fiscal year, the Federal Government has authorised a foreign exchange budget involving an outflow of about N2.7 billion over N3.2 billion. This will be a favourable balance at the end of the year which will further strengthen the external value of the Naira. The performance of our external trade sector in 1973 shows a remarkable improvement over that of 1972 which was also a good year. The level of visible exports which stood at N1434.2 million in 1972 rose to N2,226.6 million in 1973, an increase of over 55 per cent. This was due largely to the increase in the volume and price of petroleum exports which now accounts for 86 per cent of the total value of exports recorded. The N313 million recorded for traditional exports in 1973 represents over 43 per cent improvement on the previous year. Thus, the petroleum exports regained some of the ground lost in 1972 when a decline of 30 per cent was registered.

Just as exports grew in 1973, so also did import bills rise. Imports were valued at N1,234 million in 1973 as against N994.1 million in 1972. The non-oil sector almost wholly accounts for the increase in the value of imports with the highest increase recorded for industrial raw materials, passenger cars, transport equipment, food, durable consumer goods and capital equipment, in that order. Not only is the increase in the general level of imports consistent with growing exports, but the structure of imports continues to fall in line with the desired direction of the development of the economy. Besides, the

idea of opening up the by means of a network of super highways has a root than the economic factor, for it fosters less.



### EDUCATION

varities and nine out of ten technology/polytechnic higher education institutions are playing a role in the production of urgently needed manpower.

Federal Government has set up a Council for Government and Training to co-ordinate and manage all management and administrative College is established near

ally to enhance understanding among Nigerians, the Federal Government has set up "Unity Week" all over the country. Each State has one and one girls' secondary school.

education standards being nurtured by the Inspectorate and consultation among policy-makers and administrators from all governments of the country.

all else, however, is a critical decision to improve Universal Primary Education, which will be compulsory in all the country in 1975. At the end, crash pro-

### PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The highlight of the decision relating to profit and dividends is that we are now returning to the pre-war practice of authorising retention of dividends as they are declared provided that the proper taxes have been paid on them. All outstanding arrears will, therefore, be cleared during this financial year. With regard to management and technical fees, it is decided that a fixed fee only should be payable in the first five years of the establishment of a new company, and thereafter a percentage of gross profit not exceeding 5%. Turnover or net sales may be considered as a yardstick only in exceptional cases. Applications for technical fees and royalty payments will be related to the state of technology of the industry concerned as well as the existence or otherwise of a centrally directed research and development effort in the industry. Thus, each application will continue to be treated on its own merit within these broad guidelines.

### FINANCIAL DETAILS OF THE BUDGET

This year, the Federal Government expects to collect N3,122 million out of which N531 million represents Statutory Appropriation to the State Governments. An additional N35 million is to be paid as Non-Statutory Appropriation to the States as compensation for revenue loss consequent on the abolition of export duties and sales tax on Marketing Board produce and rubber. Federally retained revenue is thus estimated at N2,496 million. Petroleum now provides over 80 per cent of Federally retained revenue.

The estimated Federal Government recurrent expenditure for 1974-75 is about N995 million which leaves a recurrent budget surplus of N1,501 million for transfer to the Development Fund for financing Federal Capital expenditure. Thus over 65 per cent of Federal current revenue will be utilised for capital development.

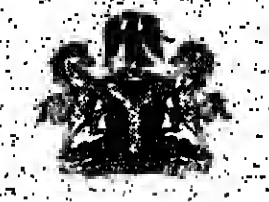
TODAY, Nigeria, utilizing the prosperity and political stability of recent years, has moved forward courageously to find fresh avenues to develop all aspects of its national resources. In doing so, it has demonstrated its capacity for self-reliance. When the next four-year national development plan is launched in 1975, Nigeria will further present a dynamic nation devoted to the welfare and happiness of all its people.

### MONETARY AND BANKING POLICY

The sectoral credit guidelines for 1973-74 will be maintained in 1974-75, that is, the proportion of each bank's total credit to the various sectors of the economy should be as follows:

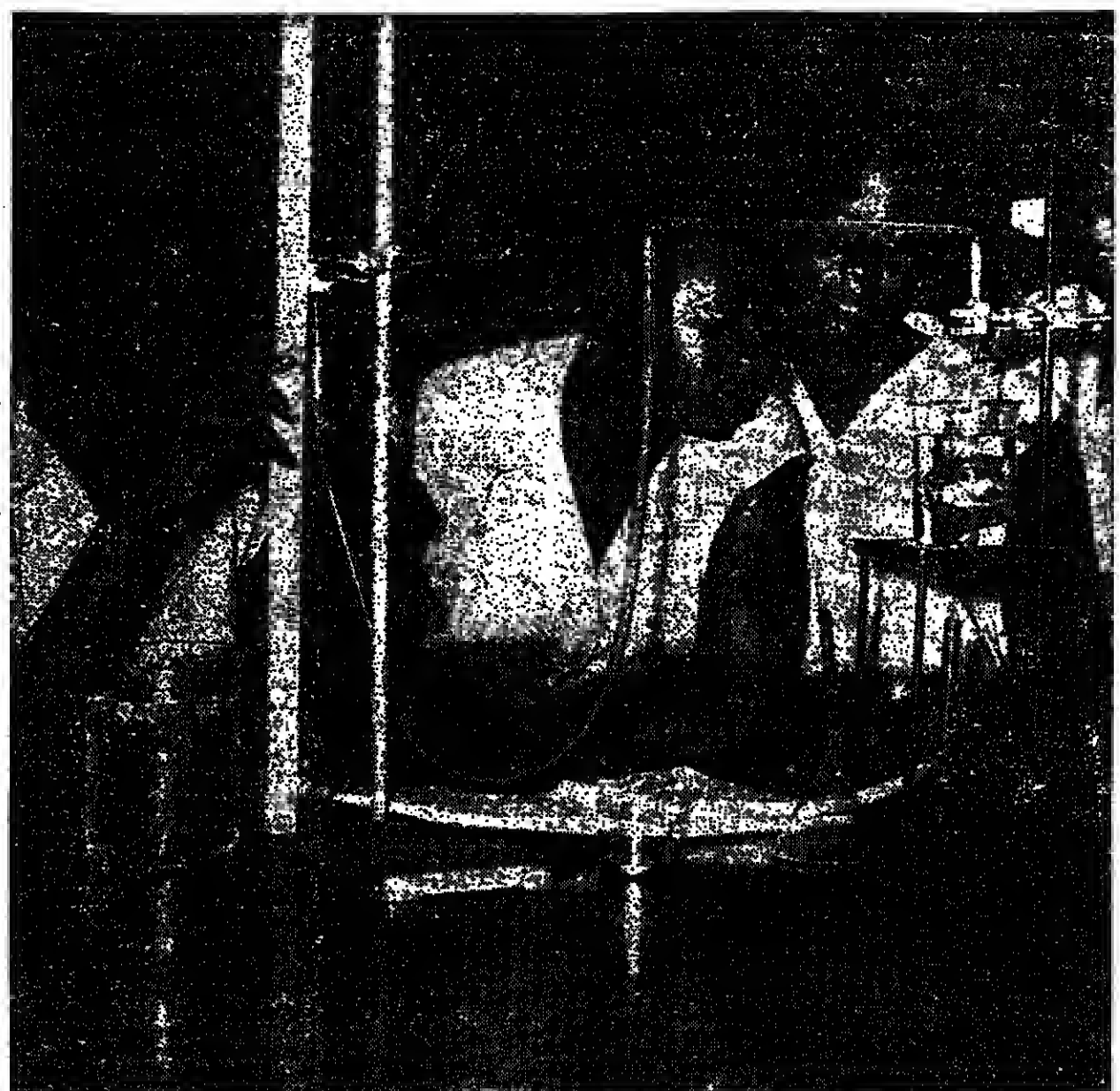
Production	45%
General Commerce	32%
Services	11%
Others	12%

The stipulated percentage shares for the productive sectors will be treated as minima while the ratios allocated to general com-

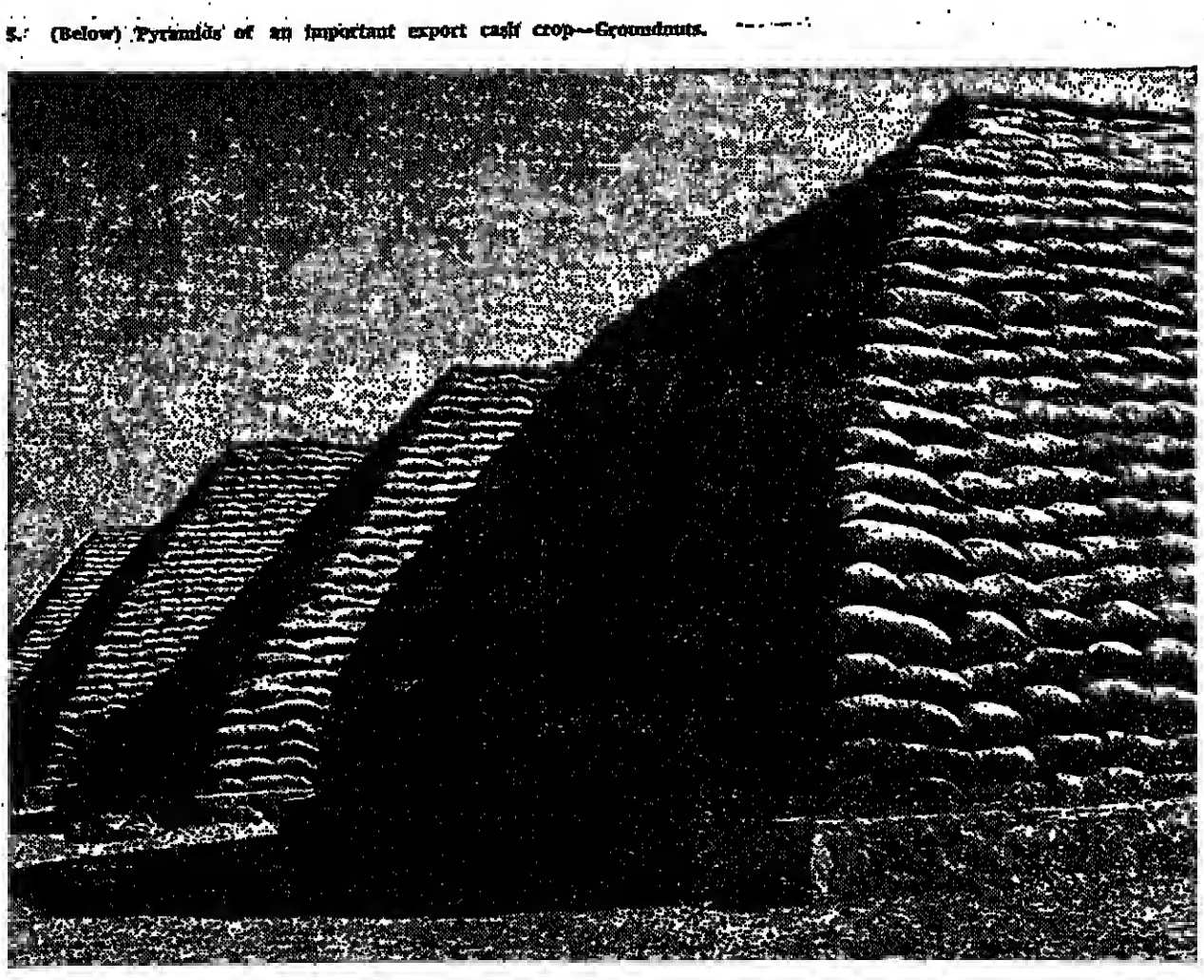


### EXCHANGE CONTROL RELAXATION MEASURES: PAYMENT FOR IMPORTS

In view of the improved foreign exchange situation, government has decided further to relax restrictions on the trade account. The 90-day rule in respect of payment for imports is now abolished and in its place we are returning to normal commercial trading practice. Capital equipment valued at over N100,000 will however continue to be paid for on suppliers' credit terms to be approved by the Central Bank in respect of the private sector and the



4. With six universities and nine colleges of technology in the country, the Federal Government has made substantial investments in the field of post primary education. In addition to Federal Government Colleges which have been opened in the states (one boys' and one girls' in each state) six non-degree granting institutions of higher education will be opened later this year. Of these, three will be advanced teachers' colleges and the other three will be Federal schools of arts and science to undertake basic studies. Picture above is of Young Secondary School girls working in a science laboratory.



5. (Below) Pyramids of an important export cash crop - Groundnuts.



## BUSINESS INDIGENISATION SCHEME MAKES GOOD PROGRESS

### INDIGENISATION DECREE

During the first two years, the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Board has worked strenuously to collate information, classify industries and to identify the businesses affected by the Decree. It has also taken appropriate measures to educate the general public on various aspects and implications of the indigenisation Decree. In addition, seminars and training programmes have been organised by the Universities, and under the auspices of the Association of the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines as a means of improving and developing managerial skills among Nigerian businessmen. All these steps are very welcome and augur well for the eventual success of the Scheme.

Considerable progress has been made in the take-over of businesses affected by the Decree, and contrary to the fears expressed by some foreign concerns, funds have not been lacking for the purchase of shares in businesses in Schedule II of the Decree. If anything, the issues of shares have been oversubscribed many times. Thus far, therefore, progress on the scheme has been satisfactory. However, it should be clearly understood by all that the intention of the Federal Military Government in promulgating the Decree is first and foremost to promote greater and more effective indigenous

participation in the economic life of the nation. It has never been, and it cannot be, the intention of the Federal Military Government merely to create avenues for a few individuals to grow rich excessively and easily on account of the indigenisation Decree, while the country's economic well-being suffers or shows signs in that direction.

I wish to stress also that the successful implementation of the indigenisation programme demands a lot of sacrifice from, and poses a big challenge to, all Nigerians who now have a duty to ensure the maintenance of high standards of integrity, business acumen, public relations and general efficiency. To this end, Nigerian businessmen should avail themselves of managerial training facilities wherever available. In this connection, it may be mentioned that a programme of Industrial Training has been launched by the Industrial Training Fund, and regular Courses will be conducted under the auspices of the Centre for Management Education.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL YAKUBU GOWON, Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity.



## Foreigners' concern over investment security

by Effiong Essien  
economics editor.  
Daily Times, Lagos

A decade ago, foreign businessmen were encouraged to come and invest in Nigeria. They were offered several types of incentives—assistance in securing land in order to build their factories, freedom to repatriate profits and dividends, the promise that their investments would not be confiscated, and, above all, tax holidays, extensive capital and depreciation allowances as well as tariff concessions.

With these incentives, in addition to Nigeria's large and growing internal market, private foreign investors trekked into the country. They put money into mining and manufacturing, construction, trading and service industries. By 1968, cumulative private foreign investment had reached N1,021.4m (about £655m) from N643.6m in 1964. Investment in the manufacturing sector climbed up to N204m from N117.8m in 1964. At that date Britain's

share of total investment was 51.1 per cent—slightly higher in the manufacturing sector.

Although the net addition to total foreign investment declined from year to year—from N126m in 1964 to N103.4m in 1968—mainly as a result of the unstable political climate between 1967 and 1970, Britain succeeded in increasing its investment from N27.2m in 1964 to N40.8m in 1968. After the civil war in 1970, when political uncertainty was cleared, foreign firms were once again confident and so they reinvested their unremitted profits and borrowed money from abroad to finance new investments and to expand existing industries.

However, one question is constantly being asked: do private foreign investors still have the confidence they had in Nigeria a decade ago, when incentives were generously offered and foreign investors treated as the prime movers of the economy? At the moment, these incentives are still operating, though not as liberally as

before, as the number of firms which qualify for some of them has been declining.

But what bothers the foreign investors, those already in Nigeria and those planning to come in, is whether Nigeria will continue to honour its pledge not to nationalize foreign investment. After what has happened in some other developing countries, their fears are justified. If indeed it is true that Nigeria is not to nationalize foreign businesses, what will be the final phase of the country's indigenization scheme?

This has been the problem confronting most foreign investors in Nigeria. It is believed that in less than five years, the 40 per cent equity capital acquired by Nigerians in foreign enterprises under schedule II will be raised to 100 per cent. That would be a mild form of nationalization, although the purchase of shares by Nigerians would mean that foreigners were returned the capital they invested without the delay often experienced in a non-negotiated nationalization.

The fact that private foreign investors worry about these problems demonstrates clearly that whatever the

nature of fiscal and industrial incentives offered, nothing can substitute for security of investment and the prospect of a high rate of return on the investment. There can be no denying the fact that Nigeria continues to promise attractive returns. Thus it is the security of investment that has become the most important consideration.

Because the investment climate is uncertain, private foreign investors welcome measures that would increase their profits in the early years so that they can take back enough money before nationalization to justify their risk. Therefore some industrial incentives are still necessary.

Under the existing industrial incentive scheme in Nigeria, a manufacturer qualifying under the approved user scheme is allowed to import raw materials specified in the customs tariff either duty-free or at a concessional rate of duty. And under the Income Tax Act, companies may be allowed to write-down their capital assets in the early years of operation, so as to enable them to amortize their capital assets during the formative years.

The Act allows a company to depreciate the value of its machinery by as much as 40 per cent in its first taxable year. This is in addition to the normal annual write-down of between 5 and 10 per cent allowed. Thus in its first taxable year, the company is allowed to deduct from its profits up to 50 per cent of the value of machinery. Where the company's taxable income does not absorb the full capital allowance, the unabsorbed portion can be carried forward indefinitely against future taxable profits.

In addition, some industries are declared "pioneer" and allowed to enjoy some tax privileges as new companies. The principal criterion for deciding whether a company should be a pioneer is the extent to which it will use local raw materials for manufacturing. The underlying reason is that Nigeria has "boundless resources" that could be developed without any need to import raw materials.

Moreover, because of the need to encourage the development of certain industries, incentives nowadays apply only to carefully selected industries which meet the requirements of national priorities. These include iron, steel and fertilizers, but exclude cosmetics, biscuits, and textile industries.

tries producing only cotton

final-price goods and prints. Because of the need to encourage and protect Nigerian participation in certain areas of the economy, 20 enterprises are now exclusively reserved for Nigerians. Under schedule II, 35 enterprises are for joint participation between Nigerians and foreigners, in which case the minimum interest to be owned by Nigerians is 40 per cent. No approval will be given for the establishment of new businesses in Nigeria unless they comply with the requirements for Nigerian participation.

Foreign investors seem to accept this new development as an insurance against any possibility of nationalization. Indeed some British companies in Nigeria had already taken steps to hand over some of their activities to Nigerians before the decree was promulgated. Produce-buying, for example, was handed over to Nigerians by UAC (Nigeria) in the early days of independence.

Successful examples of joint ventures initiated by UAC before the indigenization decree include the largest bed-producing company in the country—Veno (Nigeria)—a subsidiary of UAC, in which the Governments of Western State and Lagos State have shares. There is also a plastics company started by UAC, in which Western State has some shares. Another example is the General Cotton Mills at Onitsha in which the East Central State Government has participation.

In fact, UAC had been noted for its policy of joint participation either with the Government, Nigerian private citizens, or other foreign interests. The company's approach towards the sale of shares in order to satisfy the 40 per cent minimum requirement has been to invite the various state governments to take substantial shares before the remainder are sold to the public. It is believed that the company seeks to establish itself firmly in each of the states and to prevent hostility from any of the state governments.

Some other companies have also adopted this policy. On the whole, it is like to operate alone as they did, but because they are responding rapidly to the wind of change in the country—a change which means the marrying of indigenous and foreign capital, skill and technology for the development of the country as well as safe returns to foreign investors.

Plans to enlarge the airstrip at Enugu have involved extending the runway.

## How to win friends with 'indigenization'

by Alan Hutchison

One of the major economic problems facing every African government, how to increase local participation in foreign-owned business without scaring off potential investors, has been solved in Nigeria by a neat piece of legislation known as the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree—commonly shortened to "Nigerianization", or even more clumsily to "indigenization".

The common sense and flexibility with which the Federal Government has carried out the decree has won praise not only from fair-minded Nigerians, but even more surprisingly from many of the "victims" too.

Fundamentally the decree, promulgated in February, 1972, set out to reserve 22 specified business areas entirely for Nigerians by April 1 of this year (Schedule 1) and to increase Nigerian participation in a further 33 businesses, under certain conditions, to at least 40 per cent (Schedule 2). Schedule 1 enterprises are generally small, non-complex businesses—typical examples would be bakeries, taxi services and cinema management, but also including larger enterprises like newspaper publishing—which the Government felt could or should be adequately handled by citizens.

Schedule 2 businesses included light and medium manufacturing industries, certain professional activities such as estate agencies, technical distribution agencies, large-scale fishing and shipping. These were to be barred to foreigners if their paid-up share capital did not exceed N400,000 or their turnover did not exceed N1m, whichever was considered more appropriate; otherwise they had to ensure at least 40 per cent Nigerian participation in their equity by what came to be known as "D-day". General Gowon was Sandhurst-trained, it should be remembered.

The word palaver is supposed to have originated in Nigeria, and in the past two years there has been a great deal of it—palaver over definitions, over deadlines, over buntour for which Nigerians are renowned.

The original decree envisaged that in such a subtle exercise a great deal of flexibility would be needed. It is, after all, virtually the first time in an African takeover of this size that the notion of "fair play" (the Nigerians like the British phrases) has been mentioned.

And there has been flexibility—some Schedule 1 enterprises were "promoted" to Schedule 2, time limits were extended and compromises worked out. Among 13 firms given a last-minute extension in which to comply with the decree were some well-known British names—Knight, Frank & Rutley, Evans, Ryehers, publishers, Oxford. A development company in which the Commonwealth Development Corporation had a 45 per cent interest was "promoted" from Schedule 2 to the status of a "Nigerian Association".

The real "market" hag, at a price calculated to yield 63.3 per cent, on a price takeover of 64.4m, was a price-taker of 64.4m, with individual Nigerians generally dealing sole criteria it used in se-

directly with the foreign owner. Often, as with the case of advertising agencies, there was little but expert knowledge or assumed good will to buy; and in some cases where there were tangible assets for sale Nigerians were advised to start scratch rather than buy someone else's second-hand equipment.

The Government was anxious in these categories to ensure that Nigerians really did buy the business, and not merely agree to become nominal owner (a "front") under a deal whereby the former owner, nominally became "manager" but in fact kept full control of the business. To this end, promotional committees were established in all 12 states to ensure that the decree's provisions were complied with.

A more complicated form of haggling took place over the prices to be paid for Nigerian participation in Schedule 2 enterprises. Where a deal was concluded privately, we clearly do not know what price was agreed and by what method it was arrived at. But the Government made it clear that it would prefer to see the equity of affected companies sold through the Lagos Stock Exchange, which with Nairobi is the only effective share market in Black Africa. It felt this would ensure a fairer distribution of business prosperity among a greater number of people.

That, after all, was the aim of the decree—as General Gowon remarked in his budget speech: "It should clearly be understood by all that the intention of the federal military government is first and foremost to promote greater and more effective indigenous participation in the economic life of the nation. It has never been, and it cannot be, the intention of the Government merely to create avenues for a few individuals to grow rich excessively and easily on account of the indigenization measures."

The public sale of shares has played a large part in meeting these objectives, for inevitably applications for small numbers of shares were granted in full, while the greedy applications were cleared down drastically—in one case from 350,000 to 620. It is unlikely that in the short-term large individual holdings will be built up, for the average investor regards his share purchases as a long-term "hold", as well as being the attractive yields available.

He is not to be tempted by higher prices, a fact which the stock exchange authorities recognize by their insistence on a regulated bull market. The only criticism one might make is that share purchases are a relatively advanced concept, likely to appeal mainly to town-dwellers and the educated; there is as yet no evidence of farmers exchanging the currency notes under their mattresses for share certificates.

The sellers of Schedule 2 businesses have been less happy with the arrangements, but as a British businessman told me: "We really can't complain. Who minds a bit of bugging over price when the alternative could have been outright takeover, nationalization?" This is the price at which shares were to be sold, determined by the Capital Issues Commission (CIC), a body biased by international standards towards the buyers of shares, which amounted in one case to the issue of shares at a price calculated to yield 63.3 per cent, on a price-takeover of 64.4m, with individual Nigerians generally dealing sole criteria it used in se-

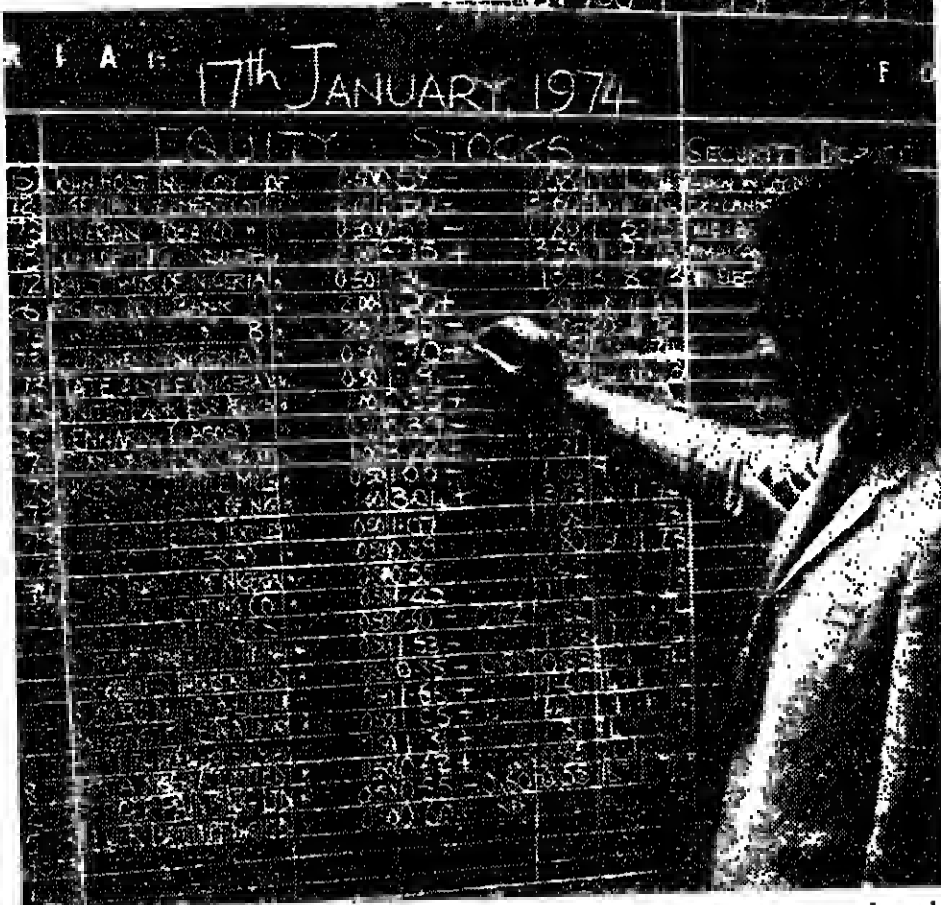
ling on a share price were there were, I think, two additional factors: the first reason that the price is so expensive is that it is expensive to transport—often amounting to over 50 per cent a year—so that to make the relatively new concept of investment in shares attractive the CIC had to ensure high yields.

Second—again a personal bunch—the CIC must have looked at the considerable profits made in Nigeria by the foreign firms over the past two decades or longer, often on money borrowed locally, and decided that a final bonus in the form of an over-generous, ultimately reasonable, share price was more than it could bring itself to give.

What will be the practical effects of indigenization? As far as Schedule 2 companies are concerned, the answer is little. Possibly management will take notice of the point made in the Guidelines for the Third National Development Plan—that "the indigenization Decree seems to have extended to ownership of enterprises without attention to control. . . . The missing factor here is a requirement that in all cases where the pattern of ownership of enterprise is changed by reason of the decree, the board of directors should reflect the pattern of ownership such that at least a third of the members of the new board of directors is Nigerian."

For a long time, sign companies have been implementing training programmes, if for no reason than the great fact that it is expensive to transport—often amounting to over 50 per cent a year—so that to make the relatively new concept of investment in shares attractive the CIC had to ensure high yields.

As far as the small businesses are concerned, new class of Nigerianpreneurs does not still are, seminars, books, papers and programmes on management and the larger firms to run courses to assist in the implementation of indigenization are the commerce, the Industrial Development Bank, the Bank for trade and industry, as the coe banks, universities, smaller state institutions. Many people familiar with the business initiative drive of Nigerian women, may find the promoting of their enterprise is somewhat flimsy; there is, in fact, the core of traditional accumulation with modern practices will dynamic economy prosperous country.



Government measures to ensure Nigerian part-ownership of foreign business have brought increased trade to the Lagos stock market.

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# Manufacturers and policy-makers seek new ways to enter world export markets

As often bears efforts to effect changes in the These changes re the modern the agricultural increase exports for domestic rements. And id be further the manufactur which, second national plan, would overseas man- stance, can for- ge in oil prodoo- circularly raised packy to earn exchange. How- y-makers have old that earnings act is notably a should be the and establish basic to and if and day up. continues to be of foreign runings, a solid ed manufac- is still needed the indispur of manufactur to guarantee foreign earnings. Unlike the tradi- cultural sector, rs can control of their products a reduce prices. is the de- in which the de- intries strive to dominant question- rian manufactur- y-makers is the which occupies parts to other countries—how break into the port market? e manufacturing e Nigeria has been gidy, by about e between 1965 1972 in terms of to the gross duct and export s share is still.

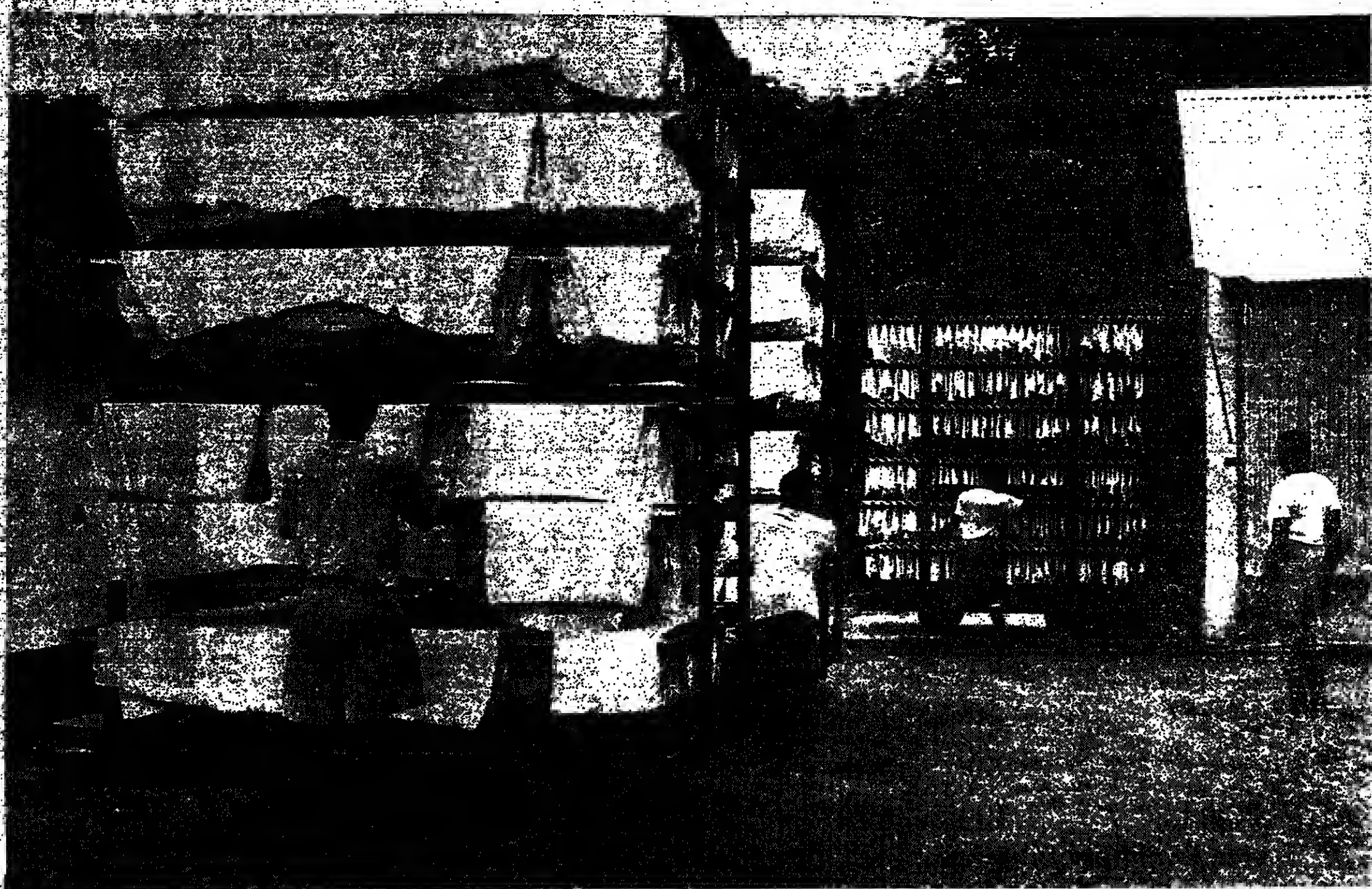
the contribution ufacturing sector only 8.5 per cent, with 19 per cent ving country like 1968. Worse, earns on average cent of Nigeria's xchange. From 1960, exports of ad products rose 1965 and N9.5m policy-makers are that exports of e are low, and guidelines to the al development launched by Ocra- tion's new objec- the manufacturing as clearly stated: ould now plunge edition with the oped countries in market? plication of the ach is that we t oow to think long-term plans effort in competi- advanced indus- ns in the non- export industries eum (including- oling systems, in- ir conditioners, erator equipment, omponents, espe- pressors, simple and equipment, small-scale agr- machinery, tools, automobile parts, cycles and compo- i motor cycle

ut the four-year lation plan period, soon expire, man- activities were d in the food, stiles, building and other process- ies—aimed speci-

st African economic union a basic aim

relations with the rica, and with the world, have been special impetus in year's chairman- Organization of oity. In this capac- Nigeria's head of as travelled widely ria has taken a important inter- initiative. These the most im- has been Nigeria's adership of the Caribbean and ACP) countries in negotiations about lianship with the Economic Commu- interesting because as made it clear ousset that unless n makes the e- vantages of associa- vore attractive than rest (and in fac- s likely to be the ria will have no a final agreement. e lies in Nigeria's e long and com- negotiations are to unite former nd French colonies. Mo Samu, Nigeria's or in Brussels said, "The current ex- is brought Franco- nd Anglophones to a way that has not i since the creatio AU itself."

egration, at least oomic level of the- s two main lan- oups has been the Nigeria's diplomay Africa since the end ivl war. At a basic- rian civil servants- g taught to speak



Trucks loaded with rubber sheets are taken into the curing house at Sapelle, in Mid-Western State.

couaging, and in the present-day approach to overseas foreign investment, joint venture with the Government is certainly an insurance against the risk of possible nationalisation and other problems. An example of this joint venture in Nigeria's new export industries is car and bus manufacturing. Such joint venture agreements are also expected in other export industries.

It follows that although Nigeria's new exports will be produced in Nigeria, the international brand image known for countries by world consumers will still be attached indirectly to the product. Volkswagen cars for example, produced in Nigeria will not alter the international name Volkswagen; rather the country of origin will be clearly identified. This international brand image will give the product a marketable value in the world market.

Besides, years of experience in product research and international marketing by the Nigerian partners in the industry will be used in the export industry. So the problem of establishing an identity in the world market will easily be solved through joint ventures with the already in the market. But perhaps the advantage Nigeria will have over the industrial nations at least in the long run, will be in producing to satisfy the needs of the developing countries, most of which are in the tropics.

Cars produced in Nigeria for export to the developing countries within the tropics are already produced and tested in a tropical Nigerian

climate, which in effect, has an advantage over cars produced in temperate zones for the tropics. This applies also to many other products. On the other hand the international partners in the business have nothing to lose. They receive safe and reasonable returns to their investment, but above all their brand image receives a secondary marketable value.

Therefore Nigeria with its size and oil wealth has the potential of capturing part of the developing markets of the world from the industrial nations in the non-traditional export industries. But in the existing industries some measures are being taken by the manufacturers to increase exports mainly to African and other developing countries.

However, the problems facing them are many. Domestic demands for the products have not yet been met despite the increase in the manufacturing index from 174.7 during the first quarter of 1972 (base quarterly average of 1965) to 207.0 in the third quarter of 1973.

Expansion capacity has been withheld because of shortage of raw materials and foreign exchange constraints. But the 1974-75 federal budget had considerably relaxed foreign exchange and import duties on raw materials. What is now required in addition to fiscal measures is an export promotional campaign—the granting of export subsidies and the setting up of an export promotion board to provide information on the world market.

E.E.

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## NIGERIAN PRODUCE MARKETING COMPANY LTD. IN PERSPECTIVE

By far, the most important sector of the Nigerian economy is agriculture and this situation is certainly going to continue for a long time to come. At present, about 75% of the country's population is engaged in agriculture and allied industries. And in spite of the recent boom in the petroleum industry, agricultural sector still accounts for more than 50% of the Gross Domestic Product. Also, agricultural exports have always been a major source of foreign exchange earnings for Nigeria and have, until quite recently, been the propelling force for the country's economic development.

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However, in order to ensure improvement in the overall efficiency of handling controlled produce, the Federal Government (which is now the Producer Price Fixing Authority responsible for fixing producer prices for all controlled agricultural produce) has, with effect from 1st April, 1973, taken over the NPMC. Instead of the NPMC being the overseas selling agent for the various State Marketing Boards, as hitherto, the Company is now responsible for purchasing produce from the farmers through the States Marketing Boards at the

producer prices fixed by the Federal Government. Consequently, the States Marketing Boards now act as agents of the NPMC in effecting the actual purchasing of the produce from the farmers. The main purpose of the Federal Government's takeover of the NPMC is to ensure that remunerative producer prices are fixed and paid to the farmers in order to encourage increase in production.

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The NPMC requires cash payment to be made in foreign exchange. Quotations are, therefore, made in foreign currencies. Terms of sale depend, to some extent, on the type of sale made i.e. whether C.I.F. or F.O.B. But, generally speaking, payments are required to be made through Irrevocable Letter of Credit. For highly reputable buyers, who have got business connection with the NPMC for over two years, the Company may accept payments on the basis of Cash Against Documents for C.I.F. Contracts.

Sales are never made on terms involving barter or the granting of credit. Also, the NPMC does not appoint any agent for the selling of the commodities handled by it. It does not therefore, pay any commission whatsoever.

For detailed information regarding the operations of the NPMC, please contact:

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NIGERIAN PRODUCE MARKETING  
COMPANY LTD.,  
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long, a & n. 1. Measuring much in space, etc. ....

span, n. 1. Full extent from end to end, as 'span of a bridge', 'span of a roof' etc.

longspan, a. 1. Spanning a long distance without a supporting structure, etc. ....

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Mr. F. R. Orr, African Container Express Limited, 982 Royal Liver Building, Liverpool L3 1HB. Telephone: 051-236 6677. Telex: 62224.

## Lagos-Apapa: pilferage rife and facilities overstretched

by Peter Hill

For well over a century Lagos has been the dominant Nigerian port and the steady expansion of the facilities at neighbouring Apapa has confirmed that position. In the nineteenth century it was the river systems of the Niger and the Benue that provided the main gateways to the hinterland of Nigeria, but the development of the railway system early this century saw the decline of Lagos-Apapa, while road development advanced the port's position still further.

The Civil War accelerated the growth in traffic through the port, and since the ending of the war the increasing prosperity of Nigeria and the pace of economic development have combined to elevate Lagos-Apapa to a seemingly unassailable position as the country's premier port complex.

Such is the volume of traffic handled by the facilities at Apapa that lorries struggling to enter and leave the port create huge traffic jams. The effect of this is to reduce the efficiency of the port and its facilities, and as one prominent user summarized the situation, "basically cargo does not move fast enough in relation to the capacity of the port".

Nevertheless, during 1972-73 (the last full year for which figures are available) the Apapa wharf and the three berths at the Lagos customs quay handled about 75 per cent of Nigeria's import and export traffic. It is estimated that last year's total probably rose to about 80 per cent. Within the Lagos port complex during 1972-73 Apapa handled some 99 per cent of export and 90 per cent of import traffic.

During that year both import and export traffic fell sharply with the downward movement in export trade stemming from increased demand from Nigerian industry for traditional export commodities, the effects of poor harvest conditions and fluctuations in overseas markets for principal Nigerian exports.

Over the past three years total exports have slipped down steadily from 1,100,000 tons in 1970-71 to 800,333

tons in 1971-72, and to 722,684 tons in 1972-73. The fall in the volume of imports during the year was attributed to government restrictions in foreign exchange transactions, increased use of local materials by domestic industry and industrial problems in some of the world's major ports which reduced the number of ships calling at Lagos, while there was also some movement of ships towards other Nigerian ports. Total imports amounted to just under 2,200,000 tons compared with 2,340,000 tons the previous year, and 2,130,000 tons in 1970-71.

There has been a pronounced decline in the volume of principal export commodities through the port over the five years since 1968-69 with the sharpest drop being recorded in the volume of groundnut exports, that have fallen from slightly more than 700,000 tons in 1968-69 to about 150,000 tons in 1972-73. Exports of groundnut cake and palm kernel have also shown a decline though less marked.

During 1972-73 a total of 1,649 ships called at the port complex, with ships from the enlarged EEC being the most numerous. The turnaround time of ships varied between 3.3 and 5.6 days, according to the Lagos Port Operations Committee. The committee also claimed that after the severe congestion in the aftermath of the Civil War the year saw a further reduction in the number of days ships were waiting for berths to 2,013 while the number of days vacant when berths were vacant rose for the third successive year to 1,498.

Meanwhile the pattern of cargo movement in terms of import deliveries and export receipts in recent years has shown a huge emphasis in favour of road as against rail transport. This is stretching the handling facilities at the port to breaking point and creating serious congestion problems.

The number of mainline railway wagons engaged in moving goods inwards to the port complex has fallen from 19,122 in 1970-71 to 9,819 in 1972-73 with a similar trend

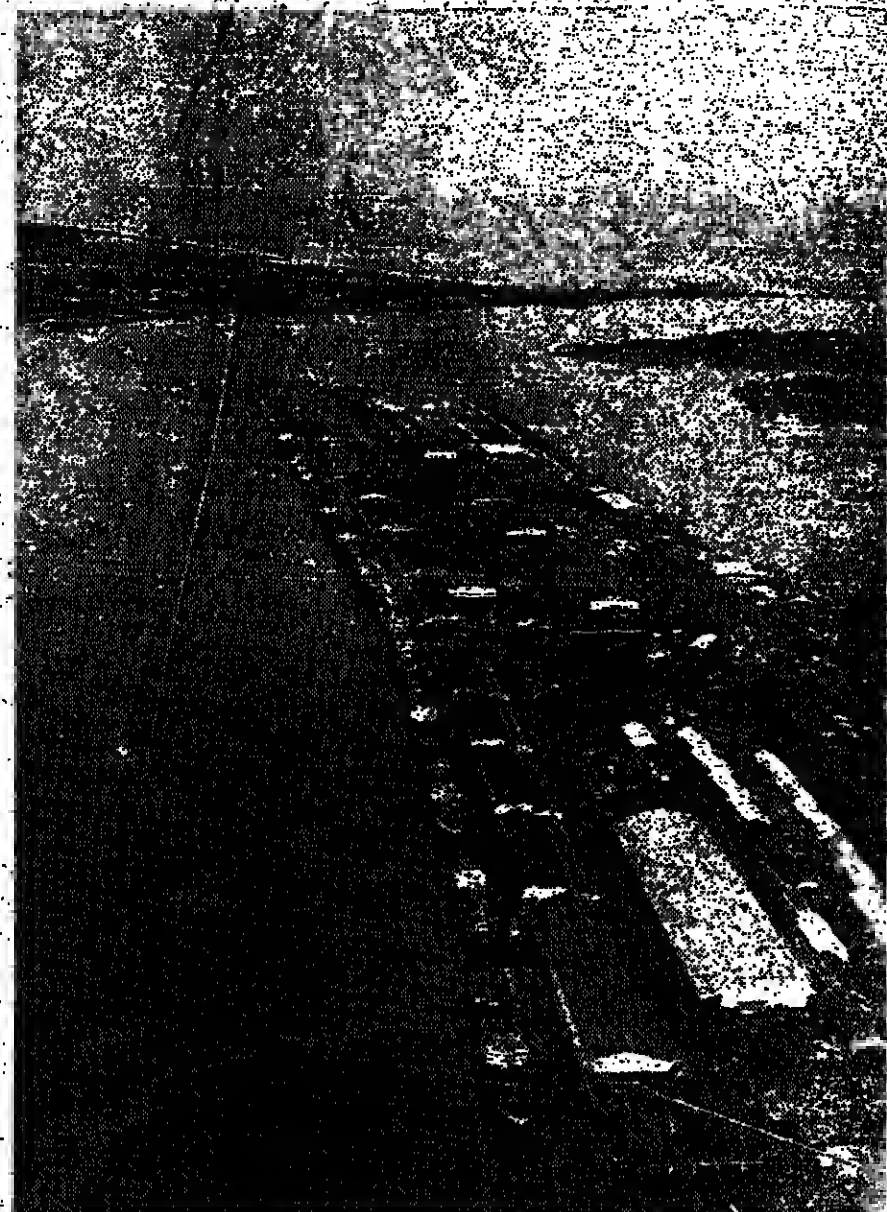
in outward movements. Road transport has increased sharply so that in 1972-73 50 per cent of all road and rail deliveries to Apapa were handled by road. This was 2 per cent more than the previous year, while out of road and rail export receipts at Apapa, some 81 per cent was accounted for by road compared with 68 per cent two years earlier.

Port facilities in the Lagos complex consist of three berths at the customs quay on Lagos Island opposite Apapa which are old, cramped and, being adjacent to the Marina district, are subject to dense traffic congestion. The view of independent consultants is that the quay should not be considered in any future development plan for the port because of these constraints.

Across the water at Apapa, the wharf extends over 8,000ft with 14 berths—one of them handling principally containers—a growing feature of trade at the port—and backed up by supporting warehouses and transit sheds. Most of the cranes are more than 40 years old and, despite the efforts of the Nigerian Ports Authority to improve the level of equipment efficiency, it is not uncommon, according to a reliable source, for up to 50 per cent to be out of action.

For the future, expansion of the Lagos port complex is envisaged. Under the new extended second development plan which ends next year, a total of N54m is to be spent on extensions. This will involve the construction of a container terminal and three conventional berths, dredging, reclamation and the purchase of cargo handling equipment. Out of the total cost of the project, the World Bank is to supply a loan of N36m. Construction of the new berths is scheduled to start this year, with the container terminal expected to be completed by August, 1976, and the three other berths at yearly intervals thereafter.

More immediately, however, the port is suffering from fundamental problems relating to the loading and unloading of cargo. Pilferage, even of containers, is



Apapa, the port of Lagos, is to be expanded by the construction of a container terminal and three new conventional berths. New cargo handling equipment is also to be introduced.

because the authorities' social and economic interest in containers being tested, full-scale indigenous attempts to solve the concept of containerization. It is not uncommon for port's history of large-scale pilferage and congestion to be a major factor in the decision to build a new terminal. The number of inward containers arriving from 3,227 three ago to 8,017, represents a rise of more than 150 per cent in 1972-73.

The West African has yet to be fully containerized but Nigeria is going to be an important influence on the pattern of development. "Combo" ships able to handle 400-200 containers scheduled to be operational by the end of the year and shipping of emphasis that the coo-business is growing well.

But there is little doubt that the containerization of the port will be a major factor in the next decade, but less abundant, notably the introduction of the new terminal and the improvement of the operational management of the terminal.

## Port Harcourt: victim of war

British industry was still grappling with the problems of the three-day week when Port Harcourt was developed as an inland harbour in 1911 and quickly established a superiority over the port of Bonny (although Bonny has subsequently regained its former importance through the development of an oil export terminal). By custom the facilities at Port Harcourt, consisting of 3,500 ft of quays incorporating six berths and supporting transit sheds and warehouses, served the old Eastern Region of Nigeria. Some 45 nautical miles from the sea, Port Harcourt is also a southern railhead for the eastern arm of the railway system.

The civil war hit the activities of the port severely and it has still fully to recover the trade which it lost during the war, although there are indications that this is now beginning to happen. According to some estimates trade through the port is probably at about half its prewar levels, reflecting the bold which Lagos-Apapa developed during the war with a considerable number of merchants establishing warehouses in the Lagos area from which imports could be distributed onwards by road.

In the past the main exports through Port Harcourt have been palm kernels, cotton seed, palm oil in drums and groundnut cake. However, with agricultural crops being badly hit by the adverse conditions over the past three years and with increasing quantities being processed and consumed within Nigeria, trade through the port has been affected.

Towards the end of last year the former port manager, Captain F. O. Ego, was prompted to describe the level of exports, then standing at a rate of about 17,000 tons a month, as "out of all proportion".

Since then the situation appears to have improved. His successor, Mr. F. B. Agoro, told me that during March this year the port handled a total tonnage (both import and export) of 98,000 tons, which was the highest monthly total since the port's reactivation after the war, and it was expected that April would realise 100,000 tons of traffic.

Occupancy of berths had improved to a point where often ships were having to wait for berths and with upwards of 2,000 workers employed daily at the port, turnaround times were improving and attracting more shipping lines. The port has 60 bulk handling facilities, but Mr. Agoro claimed that in recent months contractors had been able to turn round a ship carrying 6,000 tons of cement in five and a half days and a ship carrying 4,800 tons of wheat in four days.

The reactivation of the port started in April, 1970, and was completed in January, 1971, he said. "Between 1970 and now there has been a steady increase in trade and in the past six months (to the end of April) the growth has been phenomenal."

In the financial year 1972-73 Port Harcourt handled 70,833 tons of exports, with 169,448 tons of imports, worth about 1,800,000 tons of refined oil products being handled at the Okrika oil jetty. Principal export commodities were palm kernel oil, which accounted for 30 per cent of total exports, valued at 13,000 tons; coal, 21,000 tons; palm kernel cake, which totalled 8,000 tons; and benniseed, which reached a level of 4,000 tons.

Dutch consultants employed by the Government to study and report on the future investment in Nigeria's ports calculated in 1970 that total import and export traffic through the principal ports was likely to rise from 1965 to 6,400,000 long tons in 1980 and to 9,700,000 long tons in 1990 in terms of non-oil trade. These estimates have undoubtedly been altered by the impact of the drought on agricultural exports but they provide an indication of the expected trend.

The emphasis of the consultants' report was that in order to prepare for the expected developments and sharp changes in international shipping methods and cargo handling processes Nigeria should invest in high-capacity handling facilities. They recommended that Port Harcourt should have a container terminal and supporting equipment at the south end of the existing facilities not later than 1980 and a dry bulk handling berth.

No firm action on these lines has yet been taken and the present view among Nigerian Ports Authority officials appears to be that two general cargo berths, located upstream from the present facilities, will be required more urgently.

At present the port can handle seven ocean-going ships of up to 27ft draught, while there are also the coal berth and a bitumen loading pier upstream. The last large investment apart from the money spent on rehabilitation after the civil war, was made in the mid-1960s and Mr. Agoro made it clear that if trade continues to increase on the pattern of the past few months an early decision will be required on additional general cargo berths.

There are, however, problems of manning. Recently the Railway and Ports Transport Union alleged that the Nigerian Ports Authority was discriminating in the allocation of promotions in the Rivers ports, with the result that 200 senior posts were unfilled. It claimed that at Port Harcourt in the accounts division a large number of workers had been "acting" in a particular post for more than five years and had never been confirmed in the jobs.

But against this background the hopes of the port authorities are high. Trade through Port Harcourt will continue to rise, congestion in the future at Lagos-Apapa could be an important influence, while the development of the East-Central Rivers ports is also likely to provide a stimulus to an increased flow of cargo in both directions.



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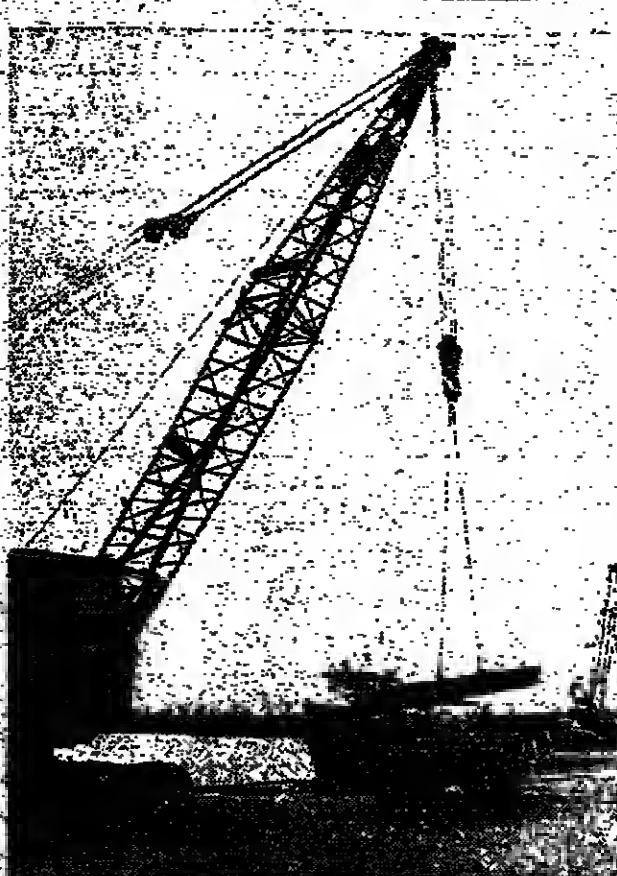
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## Warri and Calabar: £7m expansion to confer international status

Warri and Calabar, two of Nigeria's principal ports, are to be expanded at a cost of £7 million to confer international status on them. The expansion programme, which is being financed by the Federal Government, will involve the construction of new berths, the deepening of the approach channels and the installation of modern cargo handling equipment. The Warri port, located on the Benue River, is one of the busiest ports in the country, handling a large volume of cargo, particularly oil and timber. The Calabar port, situated on the Cross River, is also a major port, handling a significant amount of cargo, including agricultural products and minerals. The expansion of these ports is seen as a crucial step in improving Nigeria's infrastructure and boosting its economy.

The expansion of Warri and Calabar ports is part of a larger programme to modernise Nigeria's port facilities. The Federal Government has allocated a total of £7 million for the expansion of these two ports. The Warri port expansion will include the construction of two new berths, the deepening of the approach channel to 15 metres, and the installation of modern cargo handling equipment. The Calabar port expansion will involve the construction of one new berth, the deepening of the approach channel to 12 metres, and the installation of modern cargo handling equipment. The completion of these expansion projects is expected to significantly increase the capacity and efficiency of these ports, thereby enhancing Nigeria's ability to handle international trade.



Unloading oil pipelines from Japan at Port Warri, Rivers State.

## Bonny: rising exports usher in new prosperity

Bonny, which now ranks as Nigeria's principal port for crude oil, has had a long and chequered history, first as a centre of the slave trade and then as the main port for the export of palm oil in West Africa. For about 200 years Bonny, situated 28 miles south of Port Harcourt, which in the early part of this century dislodged Bonny's crown, was the centre of political and economic activity in the Niger delta. The development of Port Harcourt as an inland harbour led to the decline of Bonny to a simple fishing port until the exploitation of its natural advantages as an export terminal for the oil produced by Shell-BP from its Nigerian concessions ushered in a new period of ascendancy.

As Nigeria has assumed a growing importance in the international oil producing and exporting league—it was the seventh largest oil producer in the world last year—Bonny has reflected this trend in a growing volume of exports and steady expansion of capacity. The rising oil output has led to other companies establishing export terminals in the delta, notably Gulf at Escravos and Agip at Brass. When the Bonny terminal began operating in 1961 the first phase of construction included four storage tanks with a total capacity of 380,693 barrels. Since then the storage capacity has been increased first to 3,173,000 barrels, then to 3,903,000 barrels and now to five million barrels made up of some 20 tanks.

Development of Bonny as an oil port involved the dredging of the bar across the mouth of the river in the first stage to a depth of 27ft and later to 37ft 6in; this enabled tankers of 65,000 to 75,000 tons to sail up to the four inshore loading berths. During the civil war the storage resources were badly damaged, two of the main tanks being destroyed, booster station pumps damaged and the jetty burnt down. The subsequent rehabilitation programme was designed to ensure that the port should be able to cope with the expected increase in crude oil production. As a result of the reconstruction programme the inshore berths at Bonny up to a year ago were handling some 60 tankers every month. But the number of ships using these berths has since fallen because of the introduction of an offshore single buoy mooring installation suited to the loading of very large crude carriers of more than 200,000 tons which in spite of the dredging of the Bonny Bar are unable to sail upriver. The single buoy mooring facility, located between eight and nine miles off shore, is operated jointly with the storage and loading facilities at the Bonny terminal and, while the number of ships handled at the inshore berths has tended to decline, the volume of oil moved through Bonny has continued to rise. During March 56 tankers berthed at Bonny and of these 22 loaded offshore and 34 inshore, while last year 370 tankers loaded at the continued on page XII



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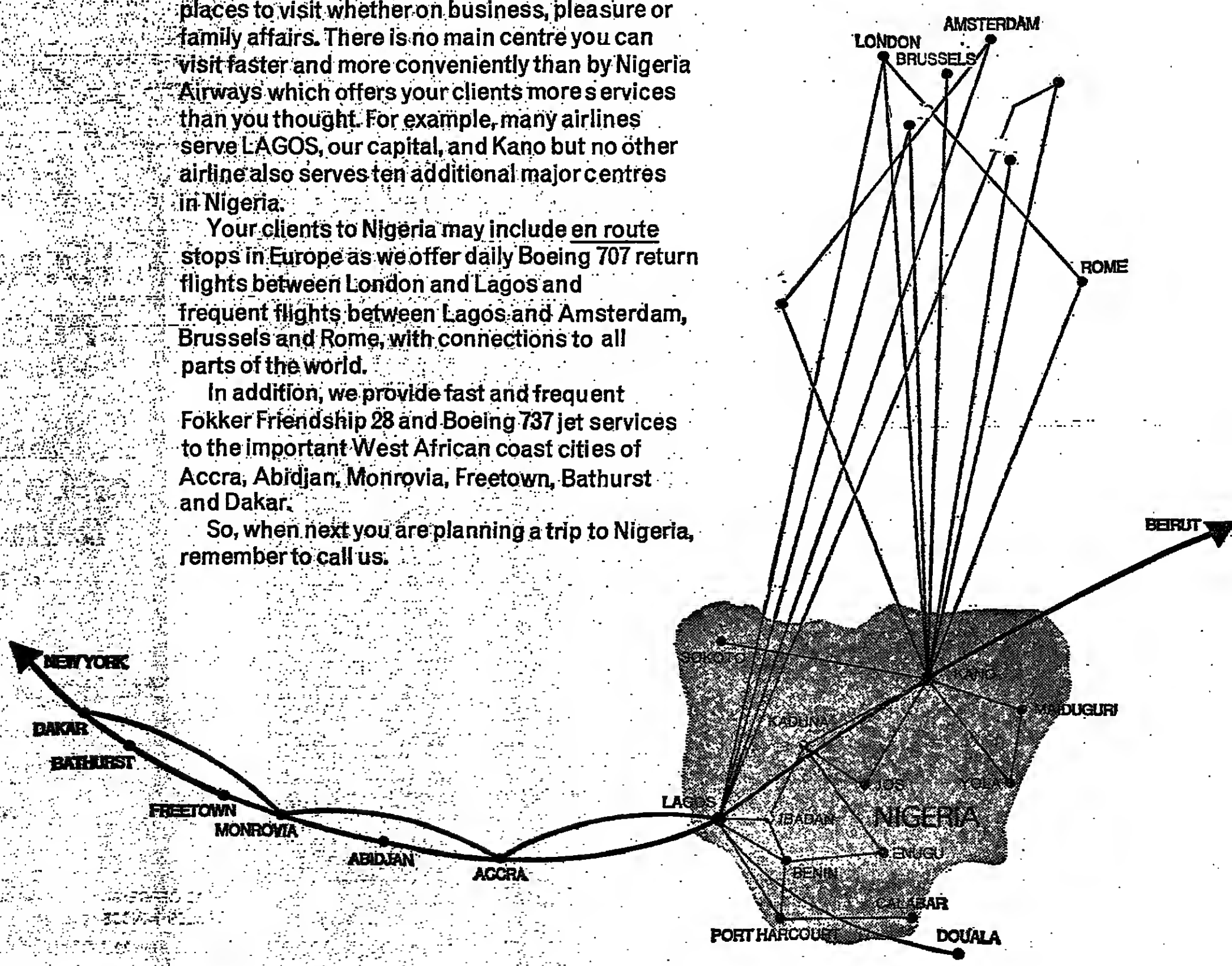
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## Railway corporation faces uphill task to provide efficient and reliable services

by Peter Hill

Since the early 1960s, after independence, transportation and communications by road, rail, sea and air have formed a vital element in the development of Nigeria. Substantial progress has been made in virtually every sector, despite the setbacks suffered during the civil war; but there is still a considerable way to go.

In Lagos, the capital, traffic congestion at certain times of the day is probably worse than anywhere in the world. At Apapa, Nigeria's principal port, serious jams develop quickly and stifle the movement of goods in and out of the port. Major roads linking the south with the hinterland, while adequate to cope with present traffic, may be inadequate to cope with the density of traffic likely a few years hence.

The railway system which preceded road development and largely opened up Nigeria's vast hinterland, has been running at a loss for more than a decade.

Within government and the federal and state ministries responsible there is, however, a recognition of transport difficulties and a desire to see that as far as possible they are not allowed to become more acute and thus hinder Nigeria's economic development.

Nigeria's railway system, totalling 2,178 route miles and administered by the Nigerian Railway Corporation, is the sixth largest in Africa. It forms a large and slightly disintegrated lattice with two north-south links. One runs from Lagos to Maiduguri (some 837 miles). The routes are linked by a 111-mile stretch between Kaduna and Kafanchan.

Construction of the 3ft 6in gauge single-track system (which is now a major constraint on the railways' effective operation) began in 1898 and throughout has been closely allied with the development of the economy, particularly the movement of agricultural produce from the northern region to the principal ports in the south and the exploitation of natural resources such as tin and coal.

The archaic single track restricts speeds to 40 mph. In addition, the railway has some 1,600 curves more than 4°. This inevitably creates problems, and a journey from Lagos to Kano in the north (a distance of

about 700 miles) can take some 30 hours).

Nevertheless Mr T. I. O. Nzewgwu, acting general manager of the NRC, has said that the corporation's objective is to provide an efficient and reliable goods and passenger service to enhance economic, social and general welfare.

It will continue to be an uphill task to achieve that objective. Predominantly a long distance carrier of freight and passenger traffic, the theoretical capacity of the main line is 24 trains a day in each direction on the Kano-Kaduna-Minna section; 20 on the Minna-Lagos section; and 18 on the Kaduna-Kafanchan-Port Harcourt section.

The NRC both before and after the civil war has tended to take second place, in terms of investment under federal plans, to the development of roads. Though the NRC has sought to improve efficiency through the introduction of diesel locomotives, this has met with only mixed success.

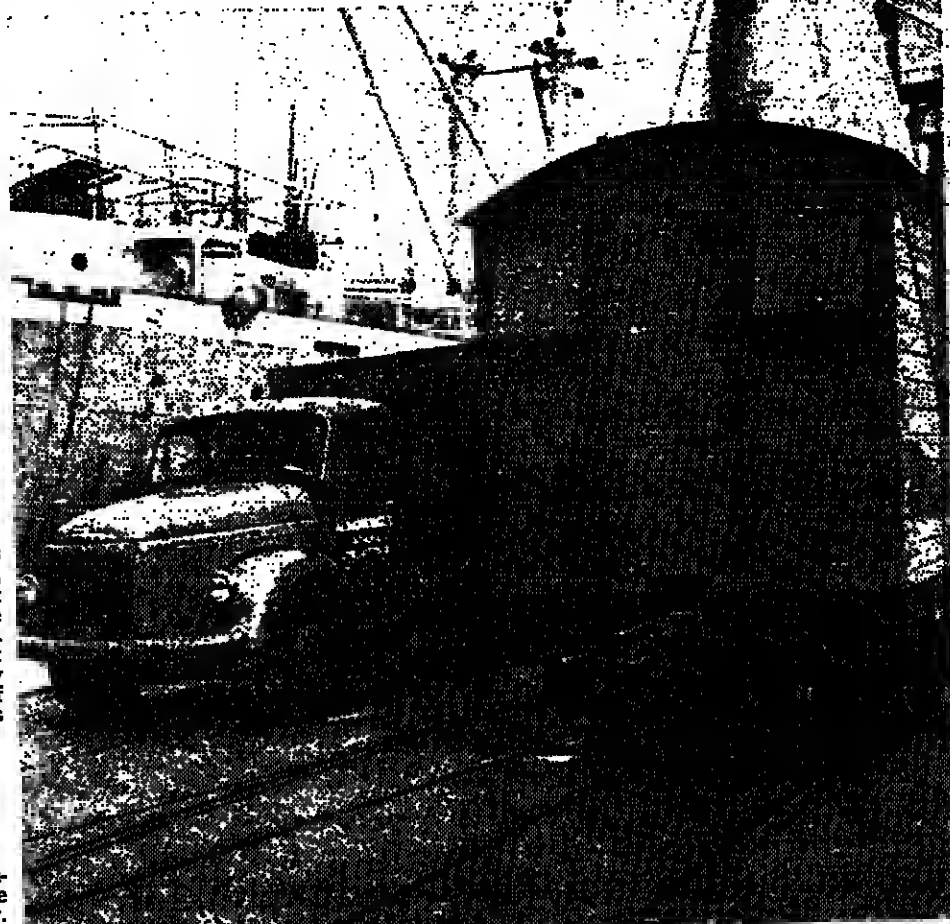
### Non-revision of tariffs

Factors which have contributed to the decline of the railway's fortunes are many. They include the non-revision of tariffs for a period of eight years; the civil war; heavy interest charges on capital and recurrent expenditure; obsolete and inadequate equipment; growing competition from road transport; and the decline in volume of agricultural exports, with a consequent loss of revenue.

Export products such as groundnuts, groundnut cake and oil, and cotton, have traditionally accounted for about half the revenue while freight movements have accounted for about 85 per cent of revenue. Drought in the northern regions in recent years has had a severe effect but has merely underlined the overall downward trend.

In 1958-59 agricultural products exported by rail amounted to 849,500 tons and rose to 880,900 tons in 1963-64. From then the trend was downwards to 767,467 tons in 1968-69, sinking to about 400,000 in 1970-71, and lower still to about 350,000 tons the following year.

NRC executives are clear on the future needs of the railway system, but authority to carry out the reforms and improvements lies with the federal authorities. Governmental studies and decisions on an independent assessment carried out some time ago by Canadian consultants will, in the words of



The busy goods traffic at Apapa docks is illustrated by the conjunction of three types of transport (left) - On the country roads of the Mid-Western State the lorry is as to distribution (right).

the guidelines for the third national development plan, "form the kernel of the railway programme". The document, however, states cryptically the level of new capital infusion will take cognizance of efforts at management reforms.

NRC officials point out that on an average haul of 500 miles, the railway system provides the most economic mode of transport and they consider it desirable to allocate a substantial part of freight traffic to the railways.

And the potential would appear to be there. Witness the development of the Nigerian iron and steel industry, the establishment of major car assembly plants by Peugeot at Kaduna and Volkswagen in Lagos, the predicted growth of containerization in Nigeria and West Africa over the next few years, and the potential for the export of Nigeria's coal reserves, although shortages of rolling stock in the past two months have acted as a brake on this activity.

Despite the problems, Mr Nzewgwu considers that the age of the NRC has arrived

and against the advances made in road development, the railway would continue to play a vital role in Nigeria's economic development.

But the railway has considerable leeway to make up. For under the current national development plan, N644m has been spent on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of 4,588 miles of roads. The wide difference in the amount allocated for road compared with rail investment under the programme has been a source of considerable controversy. Nevertheless, the benefits which improved road communications have brought have perhaps been felt more immediately by a greater number of people.

### Growing road traffic

The first trunk road in Nigeria's hinterland was constructed in 1905. Further road (and rail) development followed, and this enabled agricultural produce to be transported from the hinterland to the ports for export; it also facilitated the impor-

tation of development materials. By 1951 the country had a road mileage of 27,000 miles; total mileage is now more than 60,000 miles with about a sixth asphalted. This is made up of 6,625 miles of federal roads, 15,220 of state roads and 39,750 miles of local roads.

Road traffic has been growing at a rate of about 12 per cent annually for several years and the indications are, that with increasing prosperity, growth will be considerably greater. The extent to which road links have contributed to Nigeria's rate of development can be gauged from the fact that 21 per cent of the country's imports were carried by road in 1955, rising to 68 per cent in 1968. Exports followed a similar pattern, rising from 13 per cent in 1955 to 50 per cent by 1968.

Roads in Nigeria are classified in three sections. First, A trunk roads, which form a north-south and east-west grid on which the rest of the road network is built. They link state capitals and provide the link between the large agricultural areas and the main Nigerian ports. B

trunk roads are the responsibility of the states and provide links to the federal grid and to the railway terminals and ports. Finally, the largest number of roads are local authority roads which provide the feeder links to the A and B trunk roads.

The four main north-south A trunk roads link Lagos, Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar while one of the west-east roads runs from Lagos through the Western, Mid-Western, East Central and South-Eastern states to the border with Cameroon.

### Aid to easing congestion

Under the second development plan's road programme, major improvements have been made and a primary objective has been to create a national road network of primary and secondary arteries to cut across the A and B trunk roads. Work has taken place under four broad categories: continuing projects; rehabilitation projects; new projects; and feasibility studies.

The jewel in the crown of the first category is undoubtedly the Apapa road-Jorua Causeway completed in January last year at a cost of N235.5m. It includes the first elevated complex in black Africa and, together with completion of the Eko bridge, has gone a considerable way to easing congestion in the Lagos area. However, it has by no means solved it.

The complex forms part of one of the north-south routes and is also a possible terminal of both the proposed Lagos-Mombasa and Trans-Saharan highways. Other continuing projects include a link between Calabar and Aka, and Warri-Kaduna.

Road rehabilitation, particularly for roads which suffered damage during the civil war, is also being undertaken, while new projects have included the Lagos-Benin expressway which will link the country's two largest cities. Top priority has been given to the Western Avenue-Agege road (carried over from the 1962-68 development plan). During the current plan, feasibility studies and final

engineering design being carried out on other 15 roads.

Mr M. T. Usman, Director of Public Works, stated recently that if Nigeria's road network were constructed next 10 to 15 years, it would be important to the degree of national integration and economic development that the Federal Government sought to achieve.

But with the vehicle fleet increasing daily, further development of road transport is inevitable. Increasingly of the need for much enforcement of traffic regulations. One vital attention is in road transport when loading of axes is more than twice the rated level. This can lead to a rapid deterioration of road surfaces.

Help with the picture of this Report was given by J. Cash, Alan Hutchinson and Pike.

## Northbound ships light on cargo

Day or night, it is a rare occurrence for any of the berths at Apapa wharf, across the water from Lagos, to be vacant. The port is, after all, the main channel through which most of Nigeria's import and export trade, together with a growing volume of coastal traffic, passes. It is carried by many shipping lines.

Nigeria's large population and demand for the goods and equipment to support industrialization and development are ensuring ample cargoes for the shipping lines certainly in the southbound direction, although the effects of drought on the country's usual agricultural exports are reflected in certain instances in unacceptably low levels of loading of ships travelling northwards.

After the break-up of the old West African Lines Shipping Conference two separate but related conferences crystallized themselves—the United Kingdom/West Africa Lines Joint Service (UKWAL) and the Continent/West Africa Conference (COWAC), which covers services between the Continent and Scandinavia and West Africa.

There are six lines in membership of the UKWAL, three of them British—Elder Dempster, Palm Line and Guinea Gulf—two African—the Black Star Line of Ghana and the Nigerian National Shipping Line—and the Norwegian Høegh Lines.

The UKWAL service is not restricted to the chief Nigerian ports but operates into some 30 regular ports along the West African coast, although a large part of trade is concerned with shipments to Nigeria. In 1972 south-bound trade amounted to 1,260,000 freight tons to all ports, with some 70 per cent accounted for by trade with Nigeria compared with a level of 50 per cent in 1967 at the start of the civil war.

### Bonny: rising exports usher in new prosperity

continued from page XI

inshore berths and between 70 and 80 at the offshore facility.

Shell-BP also has developed additional oil exporting capacity at Forcados because of the increased production from its fields in the western sector of the delta, although Bonny continues to be the principal loading point.

Member lines of the UKWAL have a 28-day sailing pattern, while there are also express services operating from Liverpool and London on alternate weeks. It was this express service that pioneered the introduction of containers to Nigeria 10 years ago with the formation of African Container Express (ACE) by Palm Line, Elder Dempster and the Nigerian National Shipping Line. It has been gradually expanded to cater for the container age, although the introduction of fully cellular container services is some way off.

A start, however, has been made with the introduction in April of the first of a series of three combination ships able to carry either containers or conventional bulk cargoes. Other vessels are planned.

One of the first combination ships will be operated by the Nigerian National Shipping Line, which was formed in 1963 as part of government policy to extend state participation in private industry. It began with a fleet of three secondhand vessels, which has gradually been expanded to 14 owned ships. Under the second development plan the Federal Government undertook to carry through urgent managerial reforms and to replace four of the company's vessels which were over age.

It is difficult to assess what role the national line will have in helping to reach the objective of the third development plan. The formulation of policy is a matter for the Federal Ministry of Transport and on it will depend the nature of the development of the line's fleet. It would seem likely that increasingly, as with other developing countries, Nigeria will seek to carry more and more of its foreign trade in ships owned, operated and registered in Nigeria.

P.H.

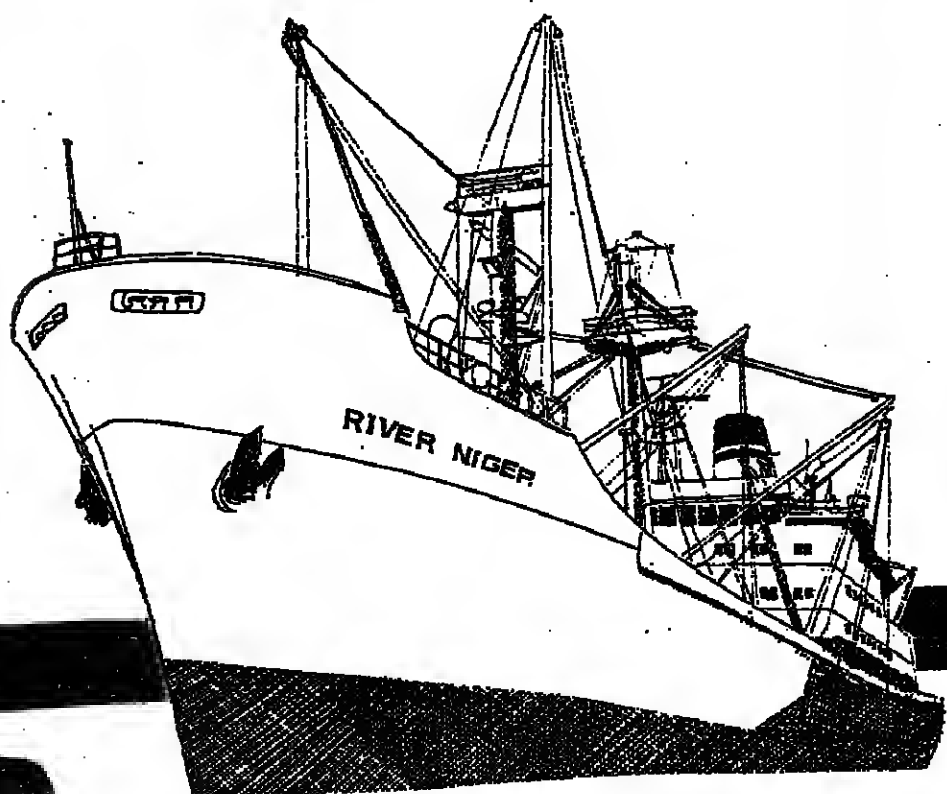
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